

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

*Journal*

THE OFFICIAL MEDIUM FOR ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION NEWS

## ANY QUESTIONS

In a team-of-four match with North the dealer these were the hands of vulnerable East-West:—

♠	K 10 x x x	♠	x
♥	x x	♥	Q J 9 2
♦	10 x x x	♦	A K 9 2
♣	x x	♣	A Q x x

The bidding proceeded:—

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	Dbl.	No
No	1NT	Dbl.	2♠
Dbl.	No	No	No

The result was two down. The panel are asked to "find the culprit."

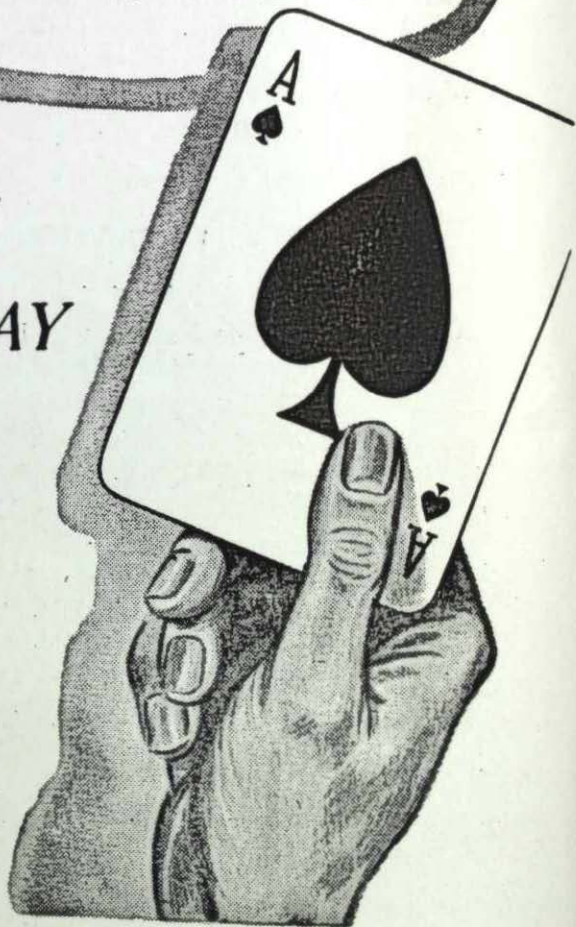
See the experts opinions on page 32.

EDITED BY H. ST. JOHN INGRAM

2/6

Read Guy Ramsey

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• *EVERY*  
*MONDAY*  
*IN*  
• *THE*  
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**Daily Telegraph**

## *Important announcement*

This is the last issue of the Contract Bridge Journal. The publishers and the editorial staff wish to thank all readers for their support over the past nine years.

The firm of Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. has acquired the goodwill of the C.B.J. and will sponsor the publication from next month of a new magazine:

# THE BRITISH BRIDGE WORLD

*edited by*

*Terence Reese*

The first issue, which will appear on January 16, 1956, will contain articles by Alfred Sheinwold, Jean Besse, M. Harrison Gray, and Hubert Phillips, together with popular and established features by Harold Franklin and Alan Truscott, and competitions by Jack Marx.

The British Bridge World will be printed and published by Hugh Quekett Ltd., and subscribers to the C.B.J. will receive the new magazine until their present subscriptions expire.

The annual subscription will be 30/- (to members of the E.B.U. 20/-). An order form will be found on page 48.

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# CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

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# Editorial

With the January issue of the Magazine the name will be changed to "The British Bridge World," and the proprietors will be the well-known firm of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Ltd. This month will therefore be my last as Editor.

Messrs. De La Rue were good enough to offer me the position of Managing Editor but after consideration I have decided to give up the position I have occupied for over five years. A change of ideas is always good for publications of this class and I feel that the time has now come for the introduction of new blood.

The incoming Editor will be Terence Reese and would be impossible to find anyone better fitted to fill the editorial chair. I wish him the very best of luck.

To all readers, home and abroad, I send Christmas and New Year greetings and hope they will continue to support and enjoy the new magazine. I trust that what has been written in the last five years has made a certain amount of interesting reading but I do apologize to all and sundry for mistakes which have crept in from time to time. Two ♠K and no deuce can be very annoying when working out a problem.

Not being a professional journalist, many errors must have appeared from time to time but as the production of the C.B.J. has been a hobby, it has on occasions been rather rushed to keep publication date. Again I tender regrets for these errors.

To the regular contributors Jack Marx, Harold Franklin, Alan Truscott, G. C. H. Fox, Gordon Hammond, and C. E. Dickel, I tender my thanks for their co-operation and help. Without them there would have been no journal. Just one word however to them and all contributors, help your editor by having copy in to time.

Although not a contributor to the journal, I should like to thank Geoffrey Fell for supplying the E.B.U. tournament results and also to thank him for the tremendous amount of work he puts in as tournament secretary. A heavily engaged business man, it is amazing how he manages to get through so much and would that others in similar positions were as competent and energetic.

My thanks also to those secretaries of county associations who have regularly sent me news of local activities. Surprisingly only a very few took advantage of the opportunity to submit news.

No doubt I have on occasions made bad friends by criticisms but let me assure those affected, that not one word was written with malice but only with the idea of getting done what would be in my opinion an improvement. No doubt some of these criticisms were not justified.

So goodbye C.B.J. but long life to the wonderful game of Contract Bridge.

H. ST. JOHN INGRAM.

# IN DEFENCE OF THE MODERN (3)

by HAROLD FRANKLIN

This is the third and last article replying to the editorial in the August issue of the journal.

The second of what the editor refers to as the three main factors in the decline of modern bidding is "the continual use of 'clever' or so called scientific bids." One of the worst kinds of clever bids, we are told, is a response to partner's bid in a higher ranking three-card suit. An example is cited where one of our players at Amsterdam responded one spade to an opening bid of one heart on this holding:—

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

"Needless to say" we are told, "trouble resulted." Without wishing to hold any brief for the merit of that particular bid I must point out that it is a tactical bid which has been made on many occasions by many experts. While it may from time to time have turned out badly it is reasonable to assume that if its failure had proved as inevitable as is suggested it would have been long since abandoned.

Without more ado I propose to consider all the types of three-card suit bids made throughout the 224 boards of the last world championship—to examine the principles behind them and to see how inevitable their failure in fact was.

*Response to an Opening bid.*

(1) ♠ A K 7 5  
♥ 5 4  
♦ 9 8 7 6 5 3  
♣ A

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

When North opened one diamond East came in with one heart. In one room South made a "clever" bid of two clubs and ended in an unhappy three no trumps. In the other room South adopted a common-sense approach and doubled one heart. When East rescued himself into two clubs South bid diamonds and finally played the hand in a safe part-score to gain a useful swing. Which almost makes a good argument for the editor—almost because the "clever" bid came from American Bishop and common-sense from the high priest of the common-sense approach, Terence Reese.

(2) ♠ K 9 8  
♥ Q 10 3  
♦ K 5 4  
♣ A 10 9 5

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

After South had opened one spade one North made a "clever" response of two hearts. Precisely what he had in mind is something

we can only guess at but it is difficult to see what harm could ensue since whatever number of hearts partner might bid, his hand would be strong enough to play in an equal number of spades—and the bid could have the general effect of creating a state of uncertainty in opponents mind, quite a consideration in a long match. Did I mention that North was the American, Mathe?

(3)

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

When East opened one spade West, Meredith, responded two diamonds—not very dissimilar from the last hand, and this is what I think was in his mind. If partner's rebid were two spades a raise to three spades would be automatic—if partner suggested a two-suited hand by either a bid of hearts or a raise in diamonds West would still want to play in spades and if East showed a balanced hand by a rebid of two no trumps a three spade bid would still leave the door open to either contract. In all of these cases it would be likely to be of advantage if a diamond opening was avoided. South in fact led a small club from:—

♠ 10 8 2
♥ A 9 8 7
♦ Q J 3
♣ Q 7 3

rather than what would otherwise have been a more normal diamond opening. The contract failed because East had not his bid—but it is easy to see how the diamond response was much more likely to help rather than hinder the final result.

(4)

♠ 8 3 2
♥ A 7 5
♦ A J 10 8
♣ A 9 2

When partner opened one heart, one player made the normal response of two diamonds—the other the “clever” bid of two clubs. The advantages of two clubs were presumably the fact that it might well help to preclude a club lead (a spade bid would be unthinkable since the subsequent bidding would be too difficult to control and since partner had to be able to bid spades if a slam were to be investigated) and that the hand would improve if partner were able to freely bid diamonds. The “clever” bid incidentally was from American Mathe—Schapiro made the normal approach.

(5)

♠ K 9 8
♥ A 9 7
♦ 9 8 2
♣ Q J 8 4

Partner opened one diamond and the second hand intervened with one heart. Meredith responded one spade—possibly because he has a predilection for spade bids. This qualifies for the “clever” bid tag; let us therefore see where the cleverness may lie. What are the alternatives? Two diamonds? a pronounced underbid. Two clubs, as in the other room—but partner may have to bid two diamonds with quite a good hand and over two diamonds we can hardly scrape another bid. One no trump? But surely no trumps would be much better played from the other hand. Which brings us to the real point. The hand is a marked no trump



type but one thing is quite certain—we offer the best chance of playing it in no trumps by permitting partner to bid one no trump. And if partner raises to two spades the contract is unlikely to be a bad one.

Since the full hand was:—

♠ Q J 10 4 3  
♥ None  
♦ A K J 10 4  
♣ A 9 5

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

the bid made no difference for North made his slam try below the game level and the hand was played safely in no more than four spades.

(6) The final instance of a three-card response was:—

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

and the response was two diamonds to an opening bid of one spade. The obvious intention was to rebid no trumps over a two spade response and inhibit what might be a dangerous diamond lead while encouraging what ought to be a profitable lead in any other suit. The final contract was unaffected by the bid—made again by an American player, Roth.

Six cases in all—four by Americans and two by Meredith hardly suggest that this type of bid is characteristic of British “expert” methods, nor has the inevitable failure of this type of bid proved apparent from our brief study.

Perhaps the most common type of three-card bid employed in the

match, other than the normal prepared club bid, was the tactical opening of a three-card diamond suit, generally with very powerful hands.

(a) ♠ J 9 6 2  
♥ K 8 6  
♦ A K 5  
♣ J 4 2

Roth, third-in-hand. The advantages of the diamond bid are clear. The intention is to pass any bid by partner—for defensive purposes it should be more helpful to suggest a diamond lead.

(b) ♠ K 8  
♥ A 9 6 2  
♦ A Q 10  
♣ 9 7 5 2

Rosen, third-in-hand. Reasons as above.

(c) ♠ J 10  
♥ K 9 7  
♦ K Q 5  
♣ A J 8 6 3

Meredith—probably part of a general policy of confusion.

(d) ♠ A 9 2  
♥ K Q 5  
♦ K J 7  
♣ A K 5 2

Roth—on the principle of the weaker minor on a hand which intends to rebid two or three no trumps. A stratagem which can be abused. It relies for its effectiveness on occasional rather than regular use.

(e) ♠ A Q 3  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ Q 8 5  
♣ A K 6 2

Rosen—as above.

(f) ♠ 7 4 3  
♥ A K J 4  
♦ A K 3  
♣ Q 9 7

Rèese—one diamond, presumably with the intention of bidding no trumps after a spade response and preserving the chance of a heart attack against a no trump contract. Partner did respond a spade and opponents did attack hearts against three no trumps.

- (g)     ♠ Q 7 5 2  
           ♡ J 7 6 4  
           ♦ A 8 2  
           ♣ A Q

First-in-hand opening of one diamond by Moran. What the rebid would have been over two clubs only Mr. Moran can say. *Three-card psychic opening.*

This type of bid obviously qualifies for the "clever" label. In the whole of the match there were two such bids, both made at favourable vulnerability, one by Meredith and one by Konstam, playing together. The principle is that if you are about to make a light or semi-psychic opening on a balanced hand, after partner has passed, it becomes much more difficult for opponents if the suit bid is spades. And if one has only been dealt three spades that is just unfortunate:—

- (7)     ♠ 6  
           ♡ A K Q 9 7 5  
           ♦ 9 8 7 5  
           ♣ 7 3
- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| ♠ A J 4 2 | ♠ Q 9 7   |
| ♡ 3       | ♡ 10 8 6  |
| ♦ Q J 6 3 | ♦ A 10 4  |
| ♣ J 9 8 4 | ♣ K 6 5 2 |
- ♠ K 10 8 5 3  
 ♡ J 4 2  
 ♦ K 2  
 ♣ A Q 10

After two passes East, Konstam opened one spade. Meredith raised to three spades. All passed and three down, 150, was

a poor return for a vulnerable heart game:—

- (8)     ♠ K J 10  
           ♡ Q J 2  
           ♦ K Q 9 5  
           ♣ 5 4 2

After two passes Meredith opened one spade without having any effect on the final contract although declarer did in fact go down on a spade lead, when he would have otherwise made:—

- (9)     ♠ 8 5 4  
           ♡ A J 7 2  
           ♦ A J 9 4  
           ♣ Q 7

The reasons for Meredith's first hand opening of one spade on the above are difficult to determine. But what should be remembered is that many subsequent good results were due to the uncertainty of mind of his opponents created by these constant spade bids.

For similar reasons Meredith from time to time intervened with a three-card suit at favourable vulnerability. Twice in this match, on neither occasion affecting the outcome of the hand:—

- (10)    ♠ Q J 3  
           ♡ J 10 5  
           ♦ 5 3  
           ♣ J 8 6 4 2

After partner's pass vulnerable opponent bid one club. Meredith intervened with one spade. This is the type of bid which must seek its justification in the result. On this occasion it made no difference—Meredith had scented a possible opposing slam and had been right. He chose the wrong suit to bid—had he "psyched" with one heart he might well have kept opponents out of their heart slam:—

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(11) ♠ 10 9 8  
 ♥ K 9 2  
 ♦ A 9 6 4 2  
 ♣ 9 2

Partner passed and next hand, vulnerable, bid one club. Meredith one spade—designed to make it difficult for opponents to bid hearts or spades. If partner had raised spades it would not be bad since he had high cards and a ruffing value. Neither good nor harm came of it.

All of which completely covers the use of three-card bids in a long match between two schools of "modern" bidders. The points that emerge are that the use of three-card suits is not indiscriminate, not "cleverness" for its own sake, but follows a calculated plan, and is used on certain types of hands where it is considered that the chance of gaining is higher than the chance of losing. The main objectives are to make subsequent bidding easier and to make defence more difficult. No case of the "fourth suit" three-card bid arose during the match and so I avoid further reference to an already sufficiently publicised facet of modern bidding.

The final charge levelled against modern bidding is "the continual search for the phantom slam." It is not unnatural that there is more inaccuracy in slam bidding than in any other phase of the game since a much more precise exchange of information is necessary. Many years ago Mr. Culbertson offered the opinion that it would be profitable to never call a slam. That may well have been true of the American-British match of the 1930's in which the follow-

ing phantom slams were bid in the first 90 boards:—

(1)  
 ♠ A 10 9 4 3      ♠ K J 7 6 2  
 ♥ A J 10 9 4      ♥ 2  
 ♦ 10 8 7      ♦ 9 6 5  
 ♣ None      ♣ A K Q 5

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

Bid at both tables.

Add to these the considerable number of reasonable slams which were bid and were unlucky and take into account the number of makeable slams not bid and it would be true to say that between the two teams points would have been saved if neither had ever attempted a slam. It would very rarely be true to say that of a match between two good teams today which does at least suggest that we are making progress, as of course we should. Slam bidding has improved and will keep on improving. But it is quite impossible to be attended by nothing but success. With the aid of cue-bids most leading players are able to explore slam possibilities at a safe level, but bridge players are not machines. In my view the occasional crossing of wires is more than counter-balanced by the increasing number of excellent slams that leading players are now able to reach on limited values because of their control showing methods. But then, I am a pronounced partisan of the modern methods—I leave it to the editor and those who think like him to state the opposite case.

# ATTACK? ON THE MODERNS

by H. St. JOHN INGRAM

Harold Franklin makes out a good case for the moderns but I am far from convinced that the statements made in the August issue by myself are not in keeping with the facts. Again I would like to make it clear that it is not "Acol" I was gunning against. It is against *all* super-light openings, chancy slams and "clever" bids whatever the system. I think Franklin answers my point on the light opening when on three occasions he says the bid made was the "whim of the individual," on another (T) he refers to individual eccentricities for making the opening bid, whilst on another (A) he says the bid was not characteristic.

Surely this is my very contention. Bids are made first or second in hand which should never be made. Referring to the two examples given in my statement, one hand was bid to a slam which I don't think would have been reached if it had been left to partner to open and on the other, after the opening bid of one heart on ♠Axxx, ♥AQxx, ♦xxx, ♣xx and a free response of one spade by partner, opener was now so ashamed of his hand that he passed and an easy four spades went out of the window. It is always only too easy to find individual hands to suit any situation and of course tactics must enter into one's consideration when playing against first-class opponents, but it is only what pays in the long run that is worth while and it is still my

contention that honest to goodness sound opening bids are advisable. On the question of slams, after the Schwab match against Culbertson in 1934, I took out the slam bids by both sides and found, omitting sacrifice bids, that if the English had not bid one slam of any kind, they would have been 3,000 points better off and the Americans would have been 5,000 better off. That was very bad but it is certain that modern slam bidding is no better in spite of the better facilities for pinpointing certain high cards, voids, etc. I would call Mr. Franklin's attention to an excellent article by Norman Smart in the current number of the Bridge Magazine. It is well headed "Kibitzer's Joy." In a match between the London Club and Crockfords every player was one with a "name" in the bridge world. Mr. Smart reports: "During this bout of slam fever, eight slams were bid with the following results. Made: three small slams including one doubled with an overtrick. Defeated: two grand and three small." Well, well.

It is only a little while back since two of our leading players in a Camrose match bid a grand slam missing the ace of trumps and on the very next board played, bid another grand which turned on a king finesse, *also wrong*. Quite a lot of points to recover. Bearing in mind Mr. Franklin's remarks on the great improvement on slam technique since

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1934, a couple of years ago in the European Championships the bidding went: South 1NT, North 3♥, South 4♥, North 6♥. You would not want a better couple at the table than the pair who bid this but East proceeded to lead ♠AK and on a peter from partner led a third which West ruffed. Two down.

On the question of clever bids, I agree with H.F. that there are occasions when it is difficult to find a satisfactory bid without over or under bidding and it looks as if a phony bid of a higher ranking suit is the only way to keep control at a low level. I have a great antipathy to such a course myself but am prepared to be proved wrong on this point. It will probably take two or three years for experts to decide if such bids are a paying proposition. Other "clever" bids repeatedly come adrift through misleading partner and some are just plumb crazy. Here is one from board 32 of the 1955 World Championship Match cited by Franklin for some of his examples:—

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

Open Room: America, East-West.

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	2♣	2♠
3♣	No	5♣	No
No	No		

Eleven tricks made for plus score of 700 (100 honours) to America.

Closed Room: Britain East-West.

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♦	2NT	3♦

All pass

Nine tricks made for a plus score of 110 to America.

With only 11 clubs between them it did not seem advisable for either player to mention the suit. Give me the high priest of common sense.

It is disappointing to me at not being able to go into the points raised in much greater detail. The circumstances arising with the change in the Journal, however, make it impossible for me to do so here. Perhaps at a later date, the new editor will allow me to go into the matter more fully.

*Since writing the above, the following has been received from Mr. Jack Marx. Sorry that neither space nor time allow for a reply.* H.I.

### HOW MODERN ARE THE MODERNS

The historical treatment of current controversies is certainly one of the most fascinating and instructive, yet it can be misleading unless the time-scale of the period under review is kept in true perspective. In this neither Harold Franklin nor the Editor, the one trying to vindicate, the other to discredit, the practice of "opening light," has been wholly

successful, though possibly both have erred only in a rather careless choice of words.

It is easy to forget how young a game Contract Bridge still is. Arising first in the United States in 1928, it was scarcely played in this country till 1930. A quarter of a century is therefore a fair assessment of its age. Consequently no inventions or developments or trends that can be traced back to an origin distant by more than half that time can rightly be termed "modern." If it can, then by analogy with real history the Norman Conquest, or even Hengist and Horsa's, must be assigned to the modern era. Historians might well demur.

The Editor speaks harshly of what he calls "super-light" opening bids. This is a relative term without meaning unless related to some norm or standard. For him, this norm seems to be that established by Culbertson in his Blue Book of 1930; at least so Mr. Franklin clearly assumes. Such was Culbertson's prestige, as the man who first produced order out of chaos in Contract bidding, that his honour-trick dictum has exercised a tyranny of the mind over masses of players ever since, notably in his own country. Perhaps even there it is at last beginning to weaken, if Mr. Moyses's comments on last year's World Championship match in the Bridge World are any guide. In this country there have always been rebels—Buller, Lederer, the Acol group. The last named made many converts and by 1937 Acol had become a popular system, though even at that date it could still be said to have a few years' history behind

it. It is at least three-quarters the age of Contract Bridge itself and from its beginning a "super-light" opening had been one of its most distinctive features. It may be praised or condemned on that account, but surely not on that of now appearing either as a welcome innovation or a dangerous revolution. If, as constantly repeated by Mr. Franklin, it is "modern," then Hadrian's Wall is not much less so. If the Editor can rightly refer to it as a "craze," something presumably having a sensational though ephemeral vogue, in what terms would he refer to Yo-Yo or the Charleston?

Thus for some twenty years the wisdom of entering the auction at the earliest opportunity has seemed to Acol players so self-evident that it has never occurred to them to question it. But it is certainly no bad thing from time to time to re-examine beliefs blithely taken for granted. Mr. Franklin's restatement of the theoretical case in the October issue could not be bettered. Whether he has proved that practice vindicates theory, to the satisfaction of the sceptical, is another matter. It is almost impossible to "prove" any proposition on bidding, since any really valid statistical evidence is very hard to come by. With all Mr. Franklin's diligence in analysing 140 hands from two international matches separated by 20 years, he has found only 23 with any bearing on the point at issue. Even some of these are inconclusive, since the results would have been the same whatever the players might within

(Continued on page 16)

# THE TOLLEMACHE

## NORTHERN SECTION

The Northern Tollemache produced a desperately close struggle and worthy winners in the North-West, last year's national winners. Five counties took part: North-West, North-East, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, and all met all for three boards in each of six sessions. When the last of the sessions began Yorkshire were assured of victory in three of their four matches and faced a virtually certain defeat in their match with the North-West. The North-West however were one match-point down to Notts. and six points down to the North-East; and the North-East, although heavily down to Yorkshire, were well placed against both Notts. and Lincs. A North-Western victory over Yorks. and a North-Eastern victory over the North-West both likely outcomes would create a triple tie with the issue decided on net I.M.P., in which Yorkshire were best placed.

Yorkshire recovered a few points from the North-West, but insufficient to save the match. The North-West turned their Notts. match into a win and all depended on the North-East. Lazarus and Morris bid an optimistic slam in an effort to retrieve the situation—two leads would have defeated the contract, including a rather obvious one from KQ10xxx. The defenders found a third lead and the declarer took full advantage. The North-West won the match by five points—four constituted a draw and another lead would have spelled defeat—and who could ask for a more exciting finish.

There were several key hands in the match between the two challengers. Yorkshire suffered from two grand slams. On one your correspondent and his partner got their wires badly crossed and ended in a grand slam which more or less called for the QJ blank in an eight-card suit. It was only just that no such fortunate situation should exist. Excellent bidding by Morris and Lazarus brought about the other grand slam swing:—

♠ A ♥ A 7 2 ♦ A J 4 ♣ A K Q 9 7 6	♠ K J 8 4 2 ♥ K ♦ Q 8 5 2 ♣ J 10 8
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
2♣	2♠
3♣	4♣
4NT	5♣
5NT	6♥
7♣	No

Nobody else reached this excellent contract to which the real key is East's immediate support of clubs. West quite properly decided that with club support in partner's hand there must be an opportunity to develop 13 tricks one way or another—two kings and several clubs to the jack would hardly qualify for an immediate positive response:—

♠ x ♥ A x x x ♦ 7 x x x ♣ K J x x	♠ x x x ♥ J x x ♦ Q J 9 8 ♣ x x x
♠ K x x x ♥ Q 10 x x x ♦ K ♣ x x x	♠ A Q J 10 9 ♥ K ♦ A 10 x x ♣ A Q x

The bidding of the North-South hands presented quite a problem to both Yorkshire pairs. At one table North responded two clubs to South's opening of one spade and South's next bid of three diamonds made it difficult to avoid a final contract of five diamonds. S. Fielding handled an awkward distribution with admirable care. The heart opening was won by the king and a small diamond led. West continued with a second which North won with the ace and led a small diamond—East split his equals and South won with the ace. The ♠A was followed by the queen (South had discarded a spade on the second heart) which West failed to cover. The ♠J was covered and ruffed and three rounds of clubs followed. The fourth club left East quite powerless. At another table North responded one no trump to the spade opening and South's problem was still not an easy one.

There must be a good deal to commend an immediate raise to three no trumps. The heart singleton is of course a danger, but a singleton king needs little to support it and partner must have cards somewhere. Another alternative is a raise to three spades—although only a five-card suit the solidity is a compensation for the

lack of length. The danger of a jump in a minor is that partner may be good enough to insist on a minor game. When South jumped to three diamonds North could reasonably expect to make five diamonds, which he therefore bid. Rather less care in handling the contract resulted in a two-trick set and a useful swing to Lancashire who found a way of playing in no trumps.

At Game-all partner opens one diamond and the next hand intervenes with one spade—you hold:—

♠ A J 10 x  
 ♥ x  
 ♦ K x  
 ♣ A J x x x x

What do you bid? It was a considerable surprise to see how many players considered a double the best course. A double at the one level with four trumps is very rarely a profitable bid, and even less rarely on a hand with enough values to suggest a game and with a fit of sorts in partner's suit. This hand proved no exception. Partner held:—

♠ x  
 ♥ J x x x  
 ♦ A Q J x x  
 ♣ K Q x

One spade doubled was generally made—the excellent six club contract escaped everybody.

## SOUTHERN SECTION

London, as often before, won the section, Surrey beat Middlesex for second place on a split tie. Eight teams were steered through three pleasant sessions by Percy Charters, about whom, as Joel Tarlo remarked at the finish, all the nice things that can be said

have already been said by others. The only complaints were from television addicts who had to miss the last rocketing instalment of Quatermass II, so will the E.B.U. please consult the B.B.C.'s programme planners before fixing next season's dates.



CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

First, here is a dummy-play problem the reader can tackle before looking at the solution at the end of the article.

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

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

West plays in six spades and gets a small club lead.

The best play for both declarer and defenders is difficult to spot on the next hand.

Love-all. West deals.

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

West leads a club against South's contract of four spades. At first sight South can get home without trouble by ruffing a club, but inspired defence can now beat him: East must refuse to over-ruff! Now when dummy's remaining trump is played East can give his partner a diamond ruff; a heart lead then locks declarer in dummy, and he cannot avoid the loss of a heart and a second diamond ruff.

South gets home if he plays a trump from dummy at trick two, but is always beaten by an original heart lead.

An Essex player had a most pleasing disappointment on this board.

West deals. Game-all.

This hand is a nasty trap for any declarer, and the Essex West who was doubled in three hearts and then permitted to make his contract for a score of 730 expected his team-mates to admire this brilliant result. It was with mixed feelings that he found that all the other Essex pairs had done better!

The other East-West pair had collected 800 from a strange contract of three spades doubled by North, and the North-South pairs had respectively collected 800 out of four hearts doubled and 1,100 out of five clubs doubled.

Essex thus gained a total of 3,430, which was converted to 13 I.M.P. Essex probably have no wish to look a good board in the mouth, but this does point to a serious flaw in the scoring system used for this event, in which all four results on one board are added together and converted into match-points on the I.M.P. scale. If the scoring had been on the basis of two separate team-of-four matches, Essex would have gained 20 I.M.P. on this board. The effect of this is that a four-pair team who have two good results on one board and then two more good results on the next

(Continued from page 12)

score far more than a team which has four good results on the same board. There seems to be neither logic nor equity in such an arrangement: the I.M.P. scale was designed to assess the worth of two results in a match, and any attempt to make it do other work is likely to be unsatisfactory.

Now for the answer to the dummy-play question at the beginning of this article: play a small diamond at trick two. If North has  $\diamond A$  you are virtually home unless the trumps break badly. If North goes up with his ace, 3 discards are available for the hearts, and if he does not West's  $\diamond J$  disappears on  $\clubsuit A$ . If South has  $\diamond A$ , declarer will need a heart ruff which may, and did at some tables, get overruffed.

Winners: London 13 V.P.  
2nd Middlesex 11 V.P.  
3rd Surrey 11 V.P.  
4th Kent 9 V.P.

### MIDLAND SECTION

Details of this came to hand too late for inclusion. Played at Stratford-on-Avon and ably handled by M. A. Porter the result was:—

Winners: Leicestershire 7 V.P.  
2nd Staffordshire ... 4 V.P.  
3rd Warwickshire ... 4 V.P.  
4th Derbyshire ... 4 V.P.

### SOUTH-WEST SECTION

Winners: Gloucestershire.  
2nd Oxfordshire.  
3rd Devonshire.

reason have decided to do. However, he has established, for whatever the narrow statistical basis makes it worth, that opening light at least did not lose points on these few hands, and in fact actually gained some.

Granted the strength of the theoretical case for the light opening, it is apt in practice to be a self-destructive weapon unless closely integrated into the complete armoury of the partnership. In other words, it must form part of a system like Acol that is properly equipped to deal with later repercussions. If fired by a self-assertive type of player at a partner whose mind is ill-conditioned to its very notion, it deserves all the Editor's strictures and more.

In the August issue a mercifully nameless player was pilloried by the Editor for opening on:  $\spadesuit A754$ ,  $\heartsuit AQ63$ ,  $\diamond 864$ ,  $\clubsuit 96$ . Maybe the pillory is too good for him even in these modern times, but was it evil modern influences that prompted him to do it? He can find sanction for his conduct by reference to an authority of the most respectable antiquity. In Culbertson's Blue Book of 1930 a strikingly similar hand is quoted as an example of what a minimum opening bid ought to be. It is this:  $\spadesuit AQ102$ ,  $\heartsuit 98$ ,  $\diamond A542$ ,  $\clubsuit 1087$ . A rather better than minimum is shown as  $\spadesuit AQ972$ ,  $\heartsuit 98$ ,  $\diamond A543$ ,  $\clubsuit 108$ . In the 1933 edition both these hands are still there for the instruction of the would-be expert. Our modern player, whoever he is, seems to have qualified at last. But shame on him! He is two tens short!

# PRESENTS FOR ALL

by GORDON H. HAMMOND

In spite of the constant abuse hurled at bridge-players by non-bridge-players, I remain convinced that most of us do possess some good qualities. Among these virtues, generosity takes a foremost place and, whilst the unbelievers restrict their present giving to this time of the year and a few odd birthdays, every day of the week is Christmas for the people gathered around a bridge table. True it may be that this continuous exchange of gifts is not premeditated, but, when we commence a session, we all know what happiness our offerings will give to the opposition.

There have been occasions, it must be conceded, when these happy moments have been marred by the ungentlemanly attitude of the donor's partner. Every so often (roughly 150 times per session), even I have shown a lack of appreciation of my opposite number, and have so far forgotten myself as to murmur politely "You Clot!"

I could, of course, write a series illustrating the wholesale nature of my own kindliness in this respect, but, for one of my modest disposition, it is so much easier to describe the charity of others. So, in this short article, will be found typical examples of this greatest of the virtues as practised by ordinary members of the big-hearted bridge world.

In this first instance, I sat South as declarer in three hearts (in actual fact, I was West, but the more obtuse readers are unable to follow hands if declarer sits elsewhere than in the sunny

South), and this was the full deal:—

	♠	10 x x		
	♥	K Q x x x		
	♦	x x x		
	♣	Q x		
♠	K J x x x		♠	Q x
♥	x x		♥	J x x
♦	A J x		♦	K Q x
♣	x x x		♣	A K J x x
	♠	A x x		
	♥	A 10 x		
	♦	10 x x x		
	♣	10 x x		

As it may appear a little unusual for North-South to be playing this hand at all, let alone in hearts from the South position, I should explain that, having endured a sequence of enormous East-West hands and finding life a trifle dull, I popped in a gentle heart over East's vulnerable "One Club." Thereafter, my trusting partner refused to be silent until his three hearts bid bought the contract.

A club was led, and, having cashed a couple of winners in that suit, East continued with the ♦K. This lead was the signal for the better nature of my opponents to assert itself. Before my very eyes, the king was overtaken with the ace, and the jack returned. The jack was overtaken with the queen and a small diamond came next! Unfortunately, the opponents could find no way of getting rid of the ♠KQJ, so I still had to go one off.

The next example is from a friendly—very friendly—team-of-four match, and on this occasion it was my partner who decided to

play Santa Claus. These were the hands:—

<p>♠ A J x x ♥ K x ♦ A K x x ♣ J x x x</p>	<p>♠ K x ♥ A Q x x ♦ Q J x x ♣ A x x</p>
<p>♠ 10 x x ♥ J x x x ♦ 10 x x ♣ 10 9 x</p>	<p>♠ Q x x x ♥ 10 x x ♦ x x x ♣ K Q x</p>

North doubled my strong no trump, and, following a re-crack by East, a dejected South decided to bid two hearts. East felt that something should be done (don't ask me why), and doubled for penalties.

I led a baby club and it will be seen (by some of you, at least) that declarer must go down against normal defence due to his inability to get to his own hand to take the heart finesse. However, when dummy played low, my sweet-natured partner also ducked! A grateful South won with the nine, finessed trumps, dropped my king and eventually made an overtrick due to my carrying on with the charitable works by failing to continue clubs at the first opportunity. The explanation later was that my partner thought the ♣A had been played at trick 1, but I prefer to think that declarer's obvious misery touched my partner's great heart!

Up to now I have refrained from naming the kind folk who have gone out of their way to spread a little happiness. In this final case, however, I hope to collect my usual publicity fees

from the parties concerned and therefore no shroud of anonymity will cover the chief characters.

The hand occurred in a Kent qualifying heat for The Daily Telegraph Cup (Teams-of-Four) and this time it was a declarer whose milk of human kindness overflowed:—

<p>♠ K x ♥ J ♦ A x x ♣ Q J 10</p>	<p>♠ 10 9 x x x ♥ K x ♦ 10 x x x x ♣ A</p>
<p>♠ Q J x ♥ A 9 8 x x ♦ K ♣ K x x x</p>	<p>♠ A x x ♥ Q 10 x x x ♦ Q J 9 x ♣ x</p>

Four hearts by South against me was a very dull affair. We took the first three tricks with two aces and a club ruff and the party was over. At another table, however, a couple of my friends, Paul Kirch and Charles James (on this particular occasion they were sinister enemies in another team), defended four hearts played by Mr. Howard of Messrs. Howard and Winkworth (Sidcup Bridge Club).

As before, the ♣Q was led, overtaken by the solitary ace and a low diamond returned. Seeing no future in continuing clubs—in fact, seeing no future in the hand at all—Charles played another diamond to dummy's Jack. Having discarded a spade from his own hand, Mr. Howard went into a period of suspended animation. He was, of course, looking for a way of going down in the contract with the sole aim

of proving to the Beckenham visitors that Sidcup hospitality was indeed hospitality. He did not search in vain! Eventually, he led a small trump from dummy and finessed the nine.

Charles, who had been sleeping quietly during the trance, awaked to find himself on lead via his singleton ♠J. Slowly the mists cleared and it dawned on him that Paul's series of low cards might have some subtle meaning. Anyway, the ♣J couldn't do much harm. Paul ruffed with his now lonely king—one down! De-tractors of Mr. Howard refuse to accept the suggestion that his natural kindness got the better

of him. They point out that he is a good and thoughtful player, who reads books on bridge and studies Mr. Fox's articles on safety plays. It is true that the remaining diamond winner provided a safe home for another spade and that there were ample trumps in dummy to take care of the losing clubs. It is also true that the finesse of the ♠9 guaranteed the contract if East held KJx, but I still believe in the beauty of human nature!

With this fair thought, we can say farewell to 1955 with the sure knowledge that 1956 will see the handing round of bigger and better presents than ever before.

## DEFENSIVE PLAY

by G. C. H. FOX

The hands in my concluding article are mainly concerned with defence and the first provides a further illustration of trump promotion.

Dealer North. Game-all.

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

Bidding:—

North	East	South	West
1♦	2♣	2♥	NB
4♥	NB	NB	NB

West led the ♣9 and East took his ace and king. At this point he stopped to consider where the fourth trick, necessary to defeat the contract, was coming from. It was clear that there was no hope in the side suits as the diamonds were solid and the ♠K was either in declarer's hand or the finesse was right. The only chance lay in making another trump. If West held a natural trump trick it did not matter what was returned, but if his holding was Qx or Jxx a trick could only be provided by further club leads. East, therefore, led a third club offering South a ruff and discard. On regaining the lead with the ace of trumps, the play of the fourth club served to promote West's queen.

## CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

When defending you should endeavour to take stock of the situation in the same way as when you are playing the hand. As soon as dummy goes down, see what tricks you are likely to win and, if these are not sufficient you should try to work out where the others can be made. Planning on these lines makes it easier to spot the correct defence on this hand from the 1951 Lederer Memorial Cup.

Dealer East. North-South vulnerable.

<p>♠ 3 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ Q 9 8 6 5 3 ♣ 9 7 4</p>	<p>♠ Q J 5 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ 7 ♣ 10 8 6 5 2</p>
<p>♠ A 10 9 8 7 6 ♥ A 3 ♦ K 10 4 2 ♣ Q</p>	<p>♠ K 4 ♥ J 10 9 5 4 ♦ A J ♣ A K J 3</p>

Bidding:—

East	South	West	North
1♠	2♥	NB	3♥
NB	4♥	NB	NB
NB			

West's lead of the ♠3 was taken by East. South might attempt to false card with the king but that would be unintelligent with the ♠2 in dummy. In the East position many players might be tempted to hurl back a spade for partner to ruff, but a study of the diagram will show that the defence, by this play can never capture more than three tricks. Before giving partner his ruff you should prepare the way for the fourth trick by leading the ♣Q. When in with the ♥A you return a spade and a club back provides

the setting trick. The vital point is that while East holds the ace of trumps the hand is under his control. As trumps must inevitably be drawn he can always give his partner a ruff.

Careful defence was needed to defeat declarer in this hand from the 1953 London Congress.

Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

<p>♠ 10 9 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ A J 10 7 6</p>	<p>♠ Q 8 3 2 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ K 4 2</p>
<p>♠ A K 6 5 4 ♥ K J 9 3 ♦ 2 ♣ 9 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 7 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ A K Q 7 5 4 ♣ Q 8</p>

Bidding:—

South	West	North	East
1♠	NB	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♦	NB	NB
NB			

Consider the position from North's angle after the lead of the ♠K. You expect to make two tricks in spades and the ♣K. If partner has a natural trump winner the contract is down anyway. If not it is essential to set up the outside trick before control of dummy's club suit is lost. This outside trick can only come from hearts and these must be led from North at the first opportunity. On the opening lead you follow with the ♠8. As you have already supported the suit there can be no question of you holding a doubleton. Therefore all your eight can mean is that you are indicating an entry. Your partner should underlead

his ace. You win with the ♠Q and lead the ♥7. It does not matter what East does, but if he takes the trick with the ace he will be two down as another heart will be led when you get in with the ♣K. By ducking the first heart East can save a trick since South cannot safely continue the suit from his side.

A lucky no trump game was landed on the deal below, but a more alert defence would have set it.

Dealer South. Love-all.

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

Bidding:—

South	North
1♦	1♠
1NT	2NT
3NT	

West led the ♥J taken by South who played ace and a low spade. West continued hearts which South again won and led a small diamond. West woodenly pressed on with hearts so South scored his game. West did nothing very wrong up to the time he was in with the ♦K. He should then have stopped to think. He could see that declarer had four tricks in spades and three in hearts. On the bidding and play South was marked with the ♦A. So the defence must switch if the contract is to be

broken. The only hope lay in the club suit and a low club should have been led.

A sound principle to follow in defence is to consider:—

1. What card or cards partner needs to hold in order to defeat the contract.
2. Assuming that partner holds the vital cards does that leave declarer with a reasonable bid?

In the above example partner must be placed with the ♣KJ10, leaving South with the ♣Q.

This still leaves declarer with 15 points which was not entirely impossible.

The next example occurred in a recent Duplicate Pairs.

Dealer South. Love-all.

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

South opened one no trump (13-15) and all passed. West led the ♥4 and East's 10 was allowed to hold. South took the next trick with the ♥K, crossed to dummy with the ♠K and played clubs. The ♣J held and the spade finesse was taken. This lost to East who returned a heart without giving the matter much thought. The result was that nine tricks were made. If East had paused to take stock of the situation it would have been clear that, as South had started with

♣AKJ and the ♥AK (making 15 points in all) he could not possibly have the ♦K. The ♥A is marked with declarer on the first hold up of the king. As 15 points are accounted for a diamond switch was clearly indicated. Declarer was at fault in holding up. Apart from the danger of an immediate switch to diamonds the defence would have been far more difficult had the ♥K taken the first trick. East would then have been justified in placing the ♥A with West. South should win with the king and not the ace which would in effect mean that West had led the four from KQJ4.

My last example occurred in a teams-of-four at Harrow:—

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

The final contract was three no trumps and West led the ♣5. South won and played a low diamond. East won and returned a heart. South ducked a second diamond and another heart was led. At this point declarer could count three diamonds, three hearts, one club and one spade. In an effort to set up a ninth trick a club was next led and West was in. Hoping to establish a spade trick she led the ♠2 which ran to the queen and there was still time to

knock out the remaining high club. West was right in thinking that the defence must look to spades for their tricks, but she omitted to appreciate that this would only be possible if East held the queen, or if the queen was singleton with South. The ♠K must be led. If declarer holds Qx in that suit nothing can be done about it.

None of the defensive situations I have described can be labelled "double-dummy" or unduly complex. They merely call for the same degree of methodical planning as any experienced declarer gives to the play of the hand.

Results of October Competition

<i>Winner:</i>	
C. VICKERMAN, Field House, Netherton, Huddersfield, Yorkshire	83%
<i>Runner-up:</i>	
L. G. HELM, Warren Point, Warren Drive, Wallasey, Cheshire	79%
<i>Best Ladies' Score:</i>	
MRS. N. H. COATES, 39 Longley Road, Huddersfield, Yorkshire	72%
<i>Other Leading Scores:</i>	
R. MCMAHON (Pietermaritzburg)	77%
G. P. LITTLER (St. Helens)	72%
C. R. B. MURRAY (Hythe)	72%
J. KROES (The Hague)	71%
MRS. P. HARTILL (Codsall)	69%
L. KLAW (London)	68%
J. MILTON (Darley Dale)	68%
E. PYKE (Preston)	68%
K. T. REITSEMA (Groningen)	67%
J. D. L. HARMER (London)	66%
J. MASH (Portsmouth)	66%
N. F. CHOULARTON (Stretford)	65%
DR. M. E. WEBER (Hayes, Kent)	65%
DR. DOMMASCH (Germany)	64%
J. C. JEWSON (Norwich)	64%
MRS. A. E. M. LANCASTER (Middlesbrough)	64%
L. G. WOOD (Newcastle-on-Tyne)	64%
A. W. BOWEN (Orpington)	63%
H. G. RHODES (Southport)	63%
J. T. NAYLOR (Derby)	63%
MRS. N. L. RUSSELL (Alverstoke)	63%



# London and the South

by ALAN TRUSCOTT

## MASTERS INDIVIDUAL

Hands first, results afterwards is the logical real-life order, so look at this specimen first:—

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

The opponents are vulnerable and you are not, and your right-hand opponent bids one diamond after your partner has passed. A trap pass is called for, if only because there is no sensible action to be taken. The enemy do no further bidding, and, as expected, partner protects with one spade.

When the Bridge World put a similar teaser to a group of experts some years ago they all blenched and some pleaded engagements elsewhere. Harry Fishbein remarked "There's no good bid," and after reflection amended this to "Every bid stinks." How vile can partner be? One no trump will pretty certainly be passed, and two diamonds and two no trumps are unlikely to get any co-operation from the other side of the table; so bid three no trumps, on the ground that to play a cold game in a part-score is more humiliating than to go down in a game. In the latter case you can always make some scathing remarks about partner's pathological passion for protection. The whole hand is this.

North deals. East-West Game.

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

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

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

♣6 is led to ♣A, and ♣J is returned. South can, and does, duck this, because even if West overtakes and plays a spade South is not really embarrassed. He ducks, wins the diamond return and plays ♥Q and then ♥J. This only fails in the unlikely event of East having four hearts. But if dummy did not include the ♠10 a spade switch could be a killer, so South would have to make up his mind about the club length in West's hand. Against the more expert experts, there is a strong indication that East has only a doubleton: as South is clearly marked with ♣K, the right play for East from ♣AJx would be ♣J at trick one. South can always counter such cunning, and probably should in this case, by an equally cunning duck, but it costs East little to try.

In practice West, not unnaturally, preferred a heart switch to a spade switch after overtaking ♣J, and South scored 430. This might have been a top but for a

slight misunderstanding at another table.

Slight misunderstandings over systems do happen in this event, and contribute to the entertainment of the spectators. Out of 300 partnerships which attempt to operate during the week-end perhaps 50 have been seen in action during the previous 12 months. Bob Clark, who in his first Individual was well-placed throughout and finished 8th, had more trouble than most in changing his system every three boards. On the above hand he sat West, playing with a Master with whom on past occasions he has played the Weak No Trump throughout. They rather vaguely agreed "Acol," and East bid one no trump, fearing a rebid problem if he bid one diamond and got a response of two clubs. As the Weak No Trump had not been specified, Clark assumed the strong variety. The opponents bid vigorously, but Clark was not to be denied, and finally played in four clubs doubled which only cost 800.

Clark again found himself playing the Strong No Trump opposite a partner playing the Weak No Trump on this hand:—

East deals. East-West Game.

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

Clark (East) dealt and bid one no trump. The famous player sitting South demanded an explanation from West, who with well-concealed regret, admitted to playing a Weak No Trump. There had been no system discussion, but he clearly remembered playing Weak throughout on a past occasion. West would much rather have been able to say "Strong No Trump": as it was, everything pointed to an 800 penalty.

Encouraged by this information, South butted in with two spades, which was passed out.  $\diamond 10$  was led and held, followed by  $\diamond 9$  overtaken by East's  $\diamond J$ .  $\heartsuit 9$  was returned, covered by  $\heartsuit 10$  and  $\heartsuit J$  and won in dummy. On dummy's  $\clubsuit 6$  East hopped up with the ace and played his  $\heartsuit Q$ . Declarer could now count 14 points in the East hand, and paused to ask West for the second time about the strength of the opening bid. The answer was the same: Weak. South now "knew" that East could not have the missing queen, so he played off the top trumps in case West had a doubleton. Having thus made eight tricks where nine were to be had, the famous declarer was grieved, hurt, wounded and cut to the quick, and had no hesitation in saying so to one and all.

A legal and an ethical point arose from this curious episode. Firstly, is it legal to ask about the meaning of the opponents' bidding during the play? The laws are not clear on this point—it is not even clear that it is legal to ask about the opponents' play conventions during the play.

## CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

Secondly, if your partner in good faith, gives inaccurate information about the meaning of your bidding, should you do anything about it? There is a good case for the declarer in such a position enlightening the defenders when starting to play the hand. A defender in such a case has really no choice but to sit silent, although very often, as on the hand above, the fact that partner is deceived is of no consequence.

This was a hand on which many pairs reached the wrong contract:—

Love-all. South deals.

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

As South intends to rebid two no trumps over a minor suit response one heart is a better opening bid than one spade. The three no trumps trap into which several North-Souths fell can then be avoided with this sequence:—

South	North
1♥	2♣
2NT	3♥
3♠	4♣
4♥	

South's three spade bid, which costs nothing over three hearts, permits North to avoid three no trumps. At any other scoring South would probably bid five clubs over four clubs, but in this

event South, with his strong heart suit, can afford to go for the match-points and take the slight risk of playing in what he knows is a 4-3 fit. It will be seen that four hearts can be awkward to play if one defender holds AXXX in hearts and ducks twice after an original diamond lead. (If South has one more diamond and one less club he has an interesting way of guarding against this danger and keeping control: duck the opening diamond lead!).

As the cards lie, only double-dummy defence will beat six hearts. West must lead a club, and East must play a second club after winning the second heart. This destroys the entry to South's hand needed to draw trumps after taking the diamond ruff.

More than one defence slipped against three no trumps. The first trick was won by ♦A, and six rounds of clubs played. It is now only necessary for either defender to keep all his diamonds, but at some tables the defenders concentrated on preventing over-tricks and did not get the under-trick.

Although the Masters' Individual has recently been described as a lottery, and by the finish most masters are full of gruesome stories of how their partners caught them in an end-play, or discarded an ace by accident, few would deny that the players who finish at the top have played well. They have probably had their share of the luck, but they must have been adaptable, tough and skilful as well. This year Rixi Markus seemed likely to repeat

her success the year before last, as she led most of the way and was still in the lead at the start of the last session. But Meredith was not far behind, and Plum produced a storming finish, including 46 out of a possible 50 on the last five boards which were played as one group, to win his first Individual title. His boldness in opening the bidding paid heavily on this board.

South deals. North-South Game.

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

Meredith (South) bid one heart, and Schapiro raised him to game. East, not unreasonably, came in with five diamonds which cost 700. As it turned out four hearts bid and made would still have been a top. No other South had dared to make a vulnerable opening bid on this 12-count, and all the East-West pairs at other tables had played in a spade or diamond part-score.

Meredith's celebrated skill in dummy-play showed clearly on this simple-looking hand:—

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

West played in three spades after North had opened the bidding with one club and South

had responded one no trump. The lead was ♦A, and North continued with a second diamond on getting an encouraging card from South. How would you plan the play? And in particular, how would you play the heart suit?

The first thing to spot about the heart suit is that you can play for a doubleton honour in either opponent's hand. If North holds Kx or Qx in hearts, a small heart should be led towards dummy. But if South has the doubleton, then the lead of a high heart from dummy gives the best results. The right play here must be decided by a close study of the bidding, so let us try and detect the doubleton.

The lead is surely a doubleton, marking South with five diamonds, and South can be marked with at least three clubs. If South had only two clubs North would have seven, and would have bid them again over West's two spade bid. Now if North has the doubleton heart we are looking for then South has a singleton spade at the most, because we have placed him with five diamonds, four hearts and at least three clubs. But with a singleton spade South's one no trump response would be a Quatermass bid—quite Out of This World. Therefore the hearts must be led from dummy. As the cards lay, ten tricks were made for a good score.

If you worked all this out you are entitled to be pleased with yourself. If you did not, you can at least admire the fine technique that made Meredith Masters' Individual Champion for 1955-56.

# EXPERT JUDGMENT

by PAUL MASTERS

This month's hand was submitted from Leicestershire where it created no small problem in an inter-county match.

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

South was the dealer at Game—all and five spades doubled, four hearts doubled and four hearts, all of which were defeated and three hearts, made, were the final contracts.

The main difficulty about the hand is to decide just what the best contract is, even after having seen both hands. Obviously various games *might* be made, but many things have to be right and on balance a part-score and a safe plus seems to be the best answer.

L. Tarlo and J. C. H. Marx set our ball rolling:—

South	North
Tarlo	Marx
1♥	2♦
2♠	3♠
3NT	4♦
NB	

The post-mortem view was that the contract was quite a reasonable one. There was no desirable contract—something like two spades would be the ideal although it was difficult to see any way of getting there and staying there. Marx pointed out that it

seemed certain that the spade bid was not a suit when Tarlo bid three no trumps—in any event four diamonds was a safe bid since partner could return to spades if he did in fact have a suit. It seems to us that a good deal hinges on North's initial response. Those who require a larger pointage for a response at the two level and consequently less for a rebid of two no trumps might feel impelled to respond one spade and face South with a different albeit no easier problem. To further explore the possibilities we consulted the North-Western team who were defending the Tollemache trophy which they won for the first time last year.

The North-Western chairman, J. E. Gordon bid first partnered by C. E. Phillips—simply and effectively:—

South	North
Gordon	Phillips
1♥	1♠
3♠	No

South's immediate problem as to what the hand should be played in—spades, hearts or something quite different was one which Mr. Gordon decided to avoid in favour of initially limiting his hand. If partner were able to take some further action, other than four spades, he would then endeavour to show more of his features. The advantage of this approach was that an artificial force might leave them unable to stop at a safe level on a hand on which, in spite of his powerful distribution, game was by no

means certain. The result was ample justification of the method:—

<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>
<i>P. L. Topley</i>	<i>E. L. Silverstone</i>
1♥	1♠
3♣	3♦
3♠	4♦
4♥	4♠
No	

A different approach—the artificial force. If three spades was not forcing, and I see no reason why it should have been, there seems to be quite a case for North passing the bid. Certainly the repeat of the diamond suit with the clear implication of spade length seemed fraught with danger and South did very well not to proceed beyond the already dangerous point of four spades.

F. Farrington and B. H. Franks found another simple answer which, surprisingly, had escaped everybody at the table when the hand was actually played. Franks passed Farrington's opening of one heart. This would almost certainly have produced a plus score, a satisfying result on such a hand. It might even have done better at the table—the other hands are unknown, but competitive bidding is so keen these days that it seems more than likely that some misguided opponents might have re-opened the bidding, and North-South are admirably equipped to cope with any opposing contract.

The final effort came from I. Morris and J. Lazarus who

ended safely after an adequate exploration:—

<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>
<i>Morris</i>	<i>Lazarus</i>
1♥	1♠
2♣	2♦
3♠	NB

The two clubs, although not quite forcing, is treated as almost a force, partner being able to pass only with very minimum holdings. It was this which permitted a very satisfactory auction, for with the final bid of three spades South had shown a good hand with a heart suit, with three-card spade support, with clubs and therefore with a shortage in diamonds. North had to take the final decision, but he was able to take it with a remarkably clear picture of his partner's hand.

Note that in the North-West wherever North responded it was at the one level. It appears that in Leicestershire, as in London, the initial response had been mainly two diamonds. There seems little question as to which approach works out better on this hand. But perhaps we are anticipating *your* results in that statement—what were your final contracts? If you stayed in a part-score you did well. The possible game contracts, in order of merit, seem to be four spades, four hearts, three no trumps, all of which are worth some credit. If, however, the wires got crossed and you reached a higher level you will not cavil at your marking of—zero.

**THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COTSWOLD CUP** was played at Cheltenham. Winners: Mesdames Davis, Preedy, Gardiner and Mr. Keats. Second place went to P. J. Richardson, G. Griffiths and the Spurway Brothers.

# Any Questions

**THIS MONTHLY FEATURE** is designed to answer any questions of general interest. Freaks and questions asking how to bid four hands should be avoided. Opinions will be given independently by the panel, Harold Franklin, Kenneth Konstam, Jack Marx, Alan Truscott, and the Editor.

**Question A.**—Mr. N. P. T. Osmer of Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, asks the panel to settle a little argument. At Match Pointed pairs, Dealer was North at Game-all.

North	East	South	West
1♦	1♠	2♦	2♣
3♣	3♠	No	No
4♦	4♠	Dbl.	No
No	No	—	—

The contract was defeated by one trick whilst five diamonds could be made.

North	South
♠ x x	♠ x x x
♥ —	♥ K 9 x x
♦ A K Q J x x	♦ 10 x x
♣ K Q 10 x x	♣ A x x

Who, does the panel consider, was the one at fault?

*Answer by Kenneth Konstam:*—

I consider North and South to be both at fault in this bidding sequence. Firstly North should jump directly to five diamonds over two spades. It is dangerous and unnecessary to bid three clubs once South has supported diamonds and can merely help the opposition by indicating a two-suited minor hand. A direct five diamonds bid would almost certainly close the bidding. Later of course South's double of four spades with no trump trick and the ace of partner's second suit is bad, but even so North should remove it.

*Answer by Alan Truscott:*—

North is the culprit. If playing Acol he should open two diamonds, which will not only indicate the power of his hand in attack, but also make it more difficult for the opponents to bid their major suits. After opening one diamond and getting a diamond raise from South, North should realize that the odds are heavily against *neither* side being able to make a game; his wisest move therefore is to bid five diamonds directly over two spades, and let the opponents guess. It is true that the match-point pairs factor makes North's bidding action less clear-cut, but even at this scoring he would be unwise to let the opponents play the hand in four spades, and should persevere to five diamonds even, as the bidding went, in the face of his partner's double.

*Answer by Harold Franklin:*—

Faults on both sides seems to be the answer to this one. South ought not to double four spades—his defensive values are comparatively slender—on the other hand his partner has very obviously a shaped hand and if he should elect to contest further, South's ace is in a good spot. He might well have passed therefore and left a final decision to North.

Of course, whether South passed or doubled North ought to have bid five diamonds. Firstly because his hand was not sure to produce more than one trick defensively. If partner held four diamonds, as seemed probable from the bid four spades would have a much better than even chance of making, double or no double, while five diamonds was most unlikely to be more than one down and might even make. Since partner had to be short in spades (he might have even held a singleton) his double was on outside values which might, as they did, include the ♣A.

*Answer by Jack Marx:—*

The only call by South that seems at all questionable is his voluntary first-round raise to two diamonds, though at match point scoring it is at least excusable. His two later calls truthfully state that his hand is better fitted for defence than attack at a high contract. North, therefore, must expect to find, somewhere in his partner's hand, a couple of top-card tricks. Only in the one instance where both of them are hearts, leaving nothing in either spades or clubs, is he likely to fail at five diamonds. His mode of bidding his two minors will not have impressed a two-suited hand of such an extreme type on South, who therefore cannot be fairly saddled with the responsibility for a final decision. North would also do well to reflect that East apparently expects to have at least a sporting chance of making four spades, since he would not otherwise have risked that horrible result at match-point scoring—minus 200 in exchange for an

opposing part-score. I think North must shoulder at least 80% of the blame.

I am not much in love with the double and a pass would have been better. Equally North's three clubs is misleading. If he does not jump to five diamonds, four clubs might have given a better picture of the hand.

**Question B.**—This is from Mr. Garwood of Long Eaton who asks the following question. At rubber bridge East-West were game and 60, with a love score by North-South. South passed and West opened one diamond, North bid four hearts, which East doubled. Should West bid again?

West	East
♠ J	♠ 6 x
♥ 5 4	♥ A Q 7
♦ A K Q 10 9	♦ x x x
♣ K Q 10 9 4	♣ A J 6 5 3

It will be seen that six clubs is a near certainty.

*Answer by Kenneth Konstam:—*

This is a difficult problem as indeed must be all such hands where the opening bidder has distributional values and the next hand pre-empts. On balance he should pass through, I realize that in this case he would get a very poor result. The real answer at rubber bridge at the score of game and 60 is for West to open three diamonds. East can then have a better picture of his hand when North makes an overcall.

*Answer by Alan Truscott:—*

This is just "one of those things." Mr. Garwood will just have to accept the unpleasing truth that one cannot always



reach the best contract, particularly when it is a slam on a perfect fit, and the opponents are pre-empting vigorously.

West must ask himself where the spade suit has got to. North's four heart bid may well be prompted by a fear of spades, and there are 13 cards in the suit somewhere. The odds are heavily on East having fair length in spades, in which case the hand is a misfit and defence will be the best policy. Even with the improbable club fit, a 500 penalty from four hearts is quite possible after a diamond lead and a spade return; 500 is slightly better than the game in this rubber bridge situation, and game is as far as most pairs would get on these hands, even with a free run.

*Answer by Harold Franklin:—*

Unquestionably not—if opponents have forced East into a bad guess all credit to them. Four hearts doubled should produce a plus score. There is no reason to assume a fit in either minor (not even the fact that nobody has bid spades) and unless a strong fit is found bad trump breaks can be anticipated because of the pre-emptive bid.

*Answer by Jack Marx:—*

Obviously at this height a constructive attempt at a slam is no longer feasible and is not the issue before West at the moment. The primary question is whether he can hope to make five of a minor, for if he can no penalty reasonably to be expected will fully compensate him, even though after pocketing it he is still favourably placed to win the rubber. Frankly, I should say that anybody's guess is as good as

anybody else's. East is unlikely to be doubling on third or fourth round tricks in hearts and therefore ought to have a couple of top-card tricks elsewhere, though much depends on what and where they are. Another question lies in the extent of the risk of North's being able to make four hearts. It may not strike West as being very great, but it is always present on these freak hands. East with two aces but without the ♠Q would still have doubled; the prospects at a club contract have not greatly altered but at a heart contract they have become dangerously insecure from East-West's viewpoint. My own tendency in these cases, where sheer guesswork forms such a large element in the decision, is to go on bidding, and I would as West probably have done so here. Naturally, any knowledge I had of the normal habits of a particular opponent or partner in pre-emptive situations would not be without its influence.

*Comment by the Editor:—*

Personally as West I would never think of moving the double and it is just too bad if a slam is missed. East could have quite a different hand for the double and five in a minor would not be "on" let alone six.

**Questions C and D.**—Our old friend J. Kroes of 38 Balistreet, The Hague, Holland, sends two questions:—

(C) In the sequence:—

North	South
1♣	1♦
1♣	2NT
3♣	

Is the last bid forcing or a sign off?

*Answer by Kenneth Konstam:—*

North's bid is not a definite sign off but should certainly be passed unless South holds a club honour as it denies a solid suit and also indicates the lack of an additional heart guard. However with two certain heart tricks and an easily establishable diamond suit South may still bid three no trumps even without a high club.

*Answer by Alan Truscott:—*

On general principles three clubs is not forcing, and I can think of no possible reason to treat the bid in any other way. The two no trump bidder has limited his hand, and the opener now signs off in three clubs to show a weak 6-4 hand, probably something like:—

♠ K x x x  
♥ x  
♦ Q x  
♣ A Q 10 x x x

*Answer by Harold Franklin:—*

I see no grounds for the three club bid to indicate anything other than a weak 6-4 and a desire to make three clubs the final contract.

*Answer by Jack Marx:—*

I would not define it as either, in the sense that South must bid again or must pass. Since it is clearly intended as a warning against no trumps and there is a long way to go to reach the only other apparent game contract in a minor, its effect must be discouraging rather than the reverse. South's two no trumps is a "limit" bid with a maximum point-count of about twelve, but the points can be of various kinds (quick tricks or otherwise) and variously located; and there is plenty of scope for various suit-

patterns also. South may sometimes be in a position to try for game in one direction or the other; more often he will deem the chances too poor to warrant another attempt.

(D) Team-of-four—East-West vulnerable.

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K 10 x x x	♠ x
♥ x x	♥ Q J 9 2
♦ 10 x x x	♦ A K 9 2
♣ x x	♣ A Q x x

The bidding:—

<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
1♣	1♥	Dbl.	No
No	1NT	Dbl.	2♠
Dbl.	No	No	No

Result two down. Who is the culprit?

*Answer by Kenneth Konstam:—*

I consider East's bid of one heart to be bad. He should either bid one diamond from where he can retreat to one heart or double for a take out. Over one spade he can still bid one no trump. The remainder of the hand is sufficiently good to allow him to make this bid even though he holds a singleton spade and the hand is too good to pass.

*Answer by Alan Truscott:—*

The easy answer to this question is to point a finger of scorn at East's vulnerable overcall with a rather weak four-card suit, but East has an unpleasant problem. Most experts would probably pass, but this may well leave an even more difficult problem on the next round. If South bids one spade and North raises him to two spades, East has the choice between passing and perhaps missing an easy game in hearts, or taking action and perhaps losing a fortune.

One heart is in fact a plausible choice among a number of evils. Apart from the passive pass, the only alternatives are one diamond and one no trump, neither of which is attractive. One heart does at least guard against the serious danger of missing a heart game.

What should West understand by East's self-rescue into one no trump? Obviously his hearts are inadequate. But if his hearts are inadequate, there must be some reason for his failure to double with what must be a good hand. Looked at in this light, a spade shortage becomes a strong possibility, and it is strengthened by East's failure to redouble for a rescue, which gives his side the chance to play in one spade. West should pass one no trump, and if he is going to bid at all, two diamonds is a better bid than two spades.

*Answer by Harold Franklin:—*

I make East the principal culprit. If he feels the correct first round action to be a simple suit over-call then surely the suit ought to be diamonds. He needs a bid from partner before there can be any sort of game—a diamond lead is likely to be more helpful and a diamond bid leaves an emergency escape to one heart, an advantage which is denied to the heart intervention.

Of course it can be very easily argued that since East showed a good hand by his subsequent escape to one no trump and since he was unlikely to hold five hearts his failure to double on the first round was almost surely due to an inability to face a spade response, but I still find it easy to

sympathise with West and to hope against hope that he was able to do as well in two spades as East would have done in one no trump.

*Answer by Jack Marx:—*

I suppose East might be dubbed the culprit-in-chief on the grounds that it was his initial action that started the rot. But his temptations to put his foot in it are certainly much greater than West's. By the second round West should not find it difficult to judge that East cannot have any use for spades, of all suits, though perhaps a small singleton is more, or less, than he could reasonably bargain for. But even with a small doubleton opposite, he has no reason to suppose that a contract of eight tricks in such a suit will lose less than one of seven tricks in no trumps. If East has hearts, clubs and a hand strong enough to contemplate playing in no trumps at all in face of an opening bid, surely, if he could tolerate spades, he would in the first place have doubled rather than have plumped for hearts. For that reason West's rescue into spades must be considered very bad. It is, of course, quite probable that East would have lost as much in no trumps, but left to himself he at least has a chance of getting out into diamonds.

Far more difficult is East's first decision, whether to enter the auction and, if so, with what. A strong point in favour of passing is the impossibility of doing anything that does not flout one or other of the accepted canons of sound bidding. A vulnerable butt-in even at the one level should not be made on a four-

card suit unless a very good one. A double should not be made unless prepared for a response in either unbid major. Personally, I dislike flouting the first more than the second. If I am doubled I can only guess whether to stand it or allow myself to be chased from pillar to post at other contracts, all of them doubled in turn, as happened here. Having bid a heart, I think I would have stood it; I must have a good chance of landing six tricks, not a disastrous result. But to be honest, I think I would have doubled in the first place, risking the spade response for which I am not "prepared" but with which I can cope. The danger is very small of a pre-empt from South that will tempt West into bidding

spades at a high level. Thereafter it is not difficult to find a diamond contract.

The blame must obviously be shared between the partners, though East is far more deserving of sympathy because of his much more ticklish problems. Incidentally, this is not a bad hand for the Koch-Werner Redouble; a redouble by West on the first round would invite East to choose between the two unbid suits.

*Comment by the Editor:—*

I am afraid that I should definitely flout—not for the first time—the canons of good bidding and overcall with one diamond. In doing so, I wonder when hearts would get mentioned if West had held ♠K10xxx instead of spades.



## THE CARD PLAYERS DIARY...

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# ETHICS

Quite a number of letters have been received in the last few months on the question of ethics. The E.B.U. have a Rules and Ethics Committee which does a lot of very good work and perhaps wisely, they do not give out any news or findings on cases reported. With the law of libel as it is, it would in many cases be a risky business to publish names of players who have been reported as unethical. Possibly it would be advisable in certain instances, where a grave breach has occurred, to state a case and findings without giving any names or place of origin.

Many people are of the opinion, according to letters received, that it is unethical to make a bid which does not confirm to a system which has been announced as being played. This is not so; it has definitely been stated by the Portland Club—the recognized authorities, on the question—that a player can make any bid he likes irrespective of the system played, provided, *and this is the point*, such a bid does not have any special meaning recognized by the partner but not by opponents. One gentleman recently asked if it was permissible for North vulnerable to bid one spade on ♠10xxx, ♥Qxx, ♦Qxxx, ♣xx after East had opened one club and West had responded one heart. There are laws against suicide and inciting to murder but not at the card table.

Any bid which has a special meaning between partners must

be explained to opponents. Recently there was a case of South bidding one club, West two clubs which was passed out. Usually the bidding of opponents suit is forcing to game but where so often the original club suit is weak, some players now make the overbid as showing a club suit. When such bidding arises, it would be advisable for the next player to ask the partner of the one making the overbid to explain the meaning of the bid.

Major Tatlow of Llandudno sitting East recently had a player who opened with a bid of three hearts, third in hand after two passes. Holding ♠AJx, ♥Jx, ♦AQxxx, ♣Jxx the major says he had to consider for a few minutes (presumably seconds) and then passed. After South had passed West reopened the bidding with three spades on ♠K109xx, ♥xx, ♦Kx, ♣Axxx, and then of course the question of unethical conduct arose. This short article does not propose to discuss the merits of this particular case but it does again bring up the question of delays in passing or bidding over pre-emptive bids. Some years ago, I strongly urged that over all such bids the next player should pause for 8 to 10 seconds before passing *whatever his holding*. This would completely do away with any question of trancing and partner would not know whether over a three heart opening you held such a hand as ♠AQJ10x, ♥x, ♦AKQx, ♣AQ or something like ♠Jxxx, ♥xx, ♦xxxxx, ♣xx. What is there against such a rule?

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

"GOLD CUP"—1st Round

One story which is going around at the present time is of an incident which would definitely meet with disfavour from the Portland Club and in fact from every other club. I am assured it is true.

This is the bidding:—

South	West	North	East
1♥	1♠	2♦	Dbl.
No	2♠	3♥	Dbl.
No	3♠	All pass	

And the hands of West and East were as follows:—

West		East	
♠	x	♠	A Q x x x x x x
♥	Q x x x	♥	x x
♦	Q x x x	♦	x
♣	Q x x x	♣	x x

No, the hands are not down in reverse. Just "perfect partnership understanding."

- R. Roucoli }
  - W. H. Hinton }
- W. G. Rose }
  - M. Esner }
- J. Brown }
  - B. P. Topley }
- G. B. Burrows }
  - Mrs. Markus }
- Dr. Gee }
  - G. A. Durran }
- Mrs. Fleming }
  - G. C. H. Fox }
- Mrs. Kahn }
  - A. E. Ranwell }
- Miss Younghuges }
  - J. C. T. Tatham }
- Dr. S. Lee }
  - B. B. L. Team }
- Byes:—
- P. de R. Pearse
- D. Gordon Smith
- M. Blank
- J. Lazarus
- R. E. Clark
- Miss E. Birch
- J. T. Reese
- R. Preston
- G. F. Mathieson
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B.B.L.

Although I do not always see eye to eye with some British Bridge League decisions, I was not justified in writing as I did in the November Editorial and withdraw the imputations made and apologize to those concerned.

H. St. J. Ingram

# BLACKPOOL

# CONGRESS

by NORTH-WEST

This year the annual N.W.C.B.A. Congress at Blackpool was as well attended and the prizes were as handsome as ever, 470 players sat down at the tables on the Sunday. E. G. P. Martin the Tournament Secretary had a very difficult task following in the footsteps of the redoubtable Bill Preece, who has had to give up the position through ill health. He (Martin) came through with flying colours as the congress was voted most enjoyable and free from the rather over-organized methods which have marked Blackpool in the past. The various tournament directors had a lot to do with this happy state of affairs and it is interesting to note that they gave their services, with the result that there was no heavy account to be met out of the receipts. There are obviously plenty of willing and efficient helpers to assist associations if the appeal is made.

A new individual competition was put into operation. Each set of Norths, Souths, Easts and Wests play against all other players sitting in the same position. This proved a very popular competition and all those participating expressed approval. There was of course a prize for the winner of each position.

The championship teams-of-four was rather unexpectedly won by a team from Blackburn consisting of F. Godley, N. Walton,

A. Haworth, M. Sarker. This team thoroughly deserved their win and they were in fact the only combination in the final who played consistently well. They led practically from start to finish. This hand gained them many points resulting as it did in the always hoped for circumstance—Game in both rooms for the same team with opposite cards. Incidentally the hand was thrown in at two of the 11 tables. North was dealer at Game-all:—

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

The Blackburn team played in five hearts doubled with the East-West cards and made the contract, whilst with the North-South cards four spades was made on the ♦Q lead. Undoubtedly one in favour of the light opening, with counts of 10, 8, 10, 12 in the four hands. Or was it? When four spades was reached West opened fourth in hand with one diamond, and that's how he got the ♦Q lead.

These hands proved too difficult for most. West is the dealer

at Game-all:—

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
♠ K Q x	♠ A x x x x
♥ A x x x	♥ Q
♦ A	♦ Q J 9 x x x
♣ Q x x x x	♣ x

If the bidding goes as it did at my table:—

1♣	1NT	2♦	No
2♥	No	2♠	No

how is it likely to continue. As it was the spades were 3/2 and diamonds 3/3. Can you and should you reach such a lucky contract as four spades.

The Ladies' Pairs Championship was well won by Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Wilson of Preston. The final was played on the Sunday morning and did not meet with the approval of all the ladies, who would no doubt have preferred to stop in bed reading the bridge articles in the Sunday Times and Observer.

The Championship Pairs was won by J. Hochwald and H. St. J. Ingram with a very high percentage but they were indeed lucky as they only qualified for the semi-final after a split tie. Have you noticed how often couples or teams who just scrape through a qualifying round, invariably come out well in the final.

This hand from the final goes to show the dangers of bidding even good slams.

At Love-all South dealt:—

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

The bidding by Hochwald and Ingram:—

<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>
1NT (13-15)	2♣
2♠	6♠

The ♥J was led and although the ♠J was located, contract cannot be made except double dummy. Played this way the first trick is taken with the ace and three rounds of trumps are taken, followed by ♥K. Now the clubs are played off, followed by the losing heart if West does not ruff the long club. West must over-ruff South's trump and lead away from ♦K. Should West again refuse to over-ruff, North is entered with the ♦A to draw the last trump. Hardly the recommended normal way to play the hand.

### PRIZE WINNERS OF MAJOR EVENTS

#### Ladies' Open Pairs Championship—Qualifying Round

Mrs. L. Credland and Mrs. M. Oldroyd.  
 Mrs. Cowgill and Mrs. Knowles.  
 Mrs. Roscoe and Mrs. Webb.  
 Mrs. Felton and Mrs. Williams.  
 Miss J. Gruber and Miss M. Horwich.  
 Mrs. E. L. Figgis and Mrs. A. J. Burley.

#### Final

Winners: Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Wilson.  
 Runners-up: Miss Horwich and Miss Gruber.



# CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

## Championship Pairs Semi-Final

### Section Winners:

Mr. and Mrs. Aspinall.  
F. Godley and N. Walton.  
A. Miller and L. Hutchinson.  
C. Green and S. Blaser.

### Final

1st H. St. J. Ingram and J. Hochwald.  
2nd Mr. and Mrs. Barraclough  
3rd S. Blaser and C. Green.

### Rainbow Individual—Winners

North W. W. L. Fearn. East Mrs. Woodcock.  
South E. B. Harvey. West H. J. Brocklehurst.

## Championship Teams-of-Four

### Section Winners:

Section 1 P. E. Morley, R. Kennedy, G. G. Endicott, A. K. Sen.  
Section 2 B. Hargreaves, N. Choularton, Miss S. Hargreaves, C. Green.  
Section 3 F. Godley, N. Walton, A. Haworth, M. Sarkar.  
Section 4 H. St. J. Ingram, C. Q. Henriques, J. Hochwald, C. E. Phillips.

### Final

1st F. Godley, N. Walton, A. Haworth, M. Sarkar.  
2nd B. P. Topley, E. L. Silverstone, Mrs. G. E. Higginson, S. Denby.  
3rd P. E. Morley, R. Kennedy, G. G. Endicott, A. K. Sen.

### First Open Teams-of-Four

### Section Winners:

B. P. Topley, W. A. Isaacson, Mrs. G. E. Higginson, I. Freeman.  
Mrs. W. Woodcock, M. Sarkar, A. Haworth, W. Woodcock.

### Second Open Teams-of-Four

### Section Winners:

J. V. Dewhurst, G. Fell, E. Milnes, J. Taylor.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Silverstone and Mr. and Mrs. P. Beaver.

### Third Open Teams-of-Four

### Section Winners:

Messrs. Newman, Sellman, Fielding and Findlay.  
Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Figgis.

## PORTHCAWL WINNERS

Ladies' Teams-of-Four for the "Isaac Sherman Cup": Mrs. Phyllis Williams (Capt.)

Mrs. Corwen, Mrs. M. Lester, Mrs. B. Gordon.

Second: Mrs. Cullis (Capt.), Miss Rowe, Mrs. B. Williams, Mrs. Laidlaw Murray.

Ladies' Championship Pairs for the "Sir Leslie Joseph Cup": Mrs. B. Gordon,  
Mrs. M. Lester.

Second: Mrs. P. Fletcher, Mrs. Coulter.

Men's Championship Pairs "Seabank Cup": Mr. George Fox, Mr. J. Hockey.

Second: Mr. D. H. Jones, Mr. W. Ryszewski.

Congress Teams-of-Four for the "T. G. Bonnyman Cup": S. Rivlin (Capt.).

D. McAllister, S. E. Reed, A. Stone.

Second: C. C. Carpenter (Capt.), Mrs. C. C. Carpenter, Mrs. N. Gable, J. Twine.

Championship Teams of Four for the "Porthcawl Cup": E. J. Carter (Capt.).

H. Harris, D. McAllister, S. Rivlin, S. E. Reed.

Second: Mrs. M. Lester (Capt.), Mrs. B. Gordon, Pedro Juan, Terence Reese.

Open Pairs Championship for the "Cyril E. Bloom Cup": Mrs. Trevor Harris,

Mr. Seddon.

Second: Peter Richardson, Graham Griffiths.

Consolation Teams-of-Four: S. Hoffman (Capt.), A. Schneiden, V. Dew, E. Howells.

Second: Mrs. Cullis, Miss Rowe, Jack Cope, Terry Youren.

England v. Wales Bidding Match (the Match was won by Wales): Mrs. P. Fletcher,

S. Rivlin, D. H. Jones, W. Ryszewski, V. Dew, E. Howells.

# BOOK REVIEW

*Contract Bridge—How to play it*, is Ewart Kempson's latest book. What a glutton this man is for writing books for the bridge playing public and yet each book is full of interest and never seems to repeat itself in any way. This latest effort is primarily designed for the average player but the first chapters are devoted to the absolute beginner.

The main feature in the book is the explaining of the Point-Count System and for this reason alone it is invaluable. There is a large section devoted to play and defence and this, written in Kempson's usual easy style, will help many an average player to grasp the technique of these important departments of the game.

Many of us are repeatedly asked "what book would you recommend to help me improve my game, not too advanced or technical." My answer in future will be "*Contract Bridge, How to play it*," by Ewart Kempson, published by *The Star* at 10/6.

*Card Play Technique* by Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener will appeal greatly to the stronger players but all will find pleasure in solving problems set by experts. There are many to be found in the 370 odd pages. Dummy play and defence is covered through all its ramifications and after reading the book, if you have not improved considerably—give up bridge.

In giving examples and illustrations of hands to bring out

points, I find one or two cases which do not show up too well. For instance on page 175 we get this in the chapter "Reading defenders cards."

The contract is four spades by South:—

	<i>North</i>
♠	Q 10 x
♥	5 4 3 2
♦	A Q x
♣	A J x
	<i>South</i>
♠	A K J x x x
♥	x x
♦	10 x x
♣	K 9

West leads the ace followed by the ♥K. East plays high low and on the third heart East plays the knave. The illustration is to show how to throw East in with the marked ♥Q after clearing trumps. Excellent but surely any reasonable player sitting East would have played the queen to disguise from declarer *only* where the knave was placed. Only little things no doubt, and ones which will be corrected in the second edition which is sure to come along in due course. Published by George Newnes Ltd. at 15/-.

H.I.

State Express Cigarettes  
to be Dearer

Ardath Tobacco Co. Ltd. announce that the retail prices of their brands, including State Express 555, will be increased by 1d. for 20 cigarettes.

# THE PORTLAND CLUB CUP

## *Important Additional Prizes and Change of Date of Final*

As announced in the Competition circular, the Portland Club Cup will be a Mixed Pairs event, run throughout Great Britain, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and pairs will qualify for the Final in the ratios as set out in paragraph 5 of the National Pairs Championship of England (i.e. approximately one pair in five). These pairs will be eligible for the Final which will take place at the Norbreck Hydro, Blackpool on March 24 and 25 and not on May 5 and 6 as previously announced.

The entry fee for the qualifying round will be 2/6d. per player. Those qualifying for the Final will be charged an extra 10/- per player. An unlimited number will be accommodated in the Final, which will be played as a single event with duplicated boards throughout to produce a ranking order from the field however large it may be.

### **Additional Prizes**

In addition to the Challenge Cup, further prizes down to the 8th place will be provided by the Norbreck Hydro and the B.B.L., together with a special prize for the best married couple.

The B.B.L. also has the pleasure to announce that six pairs will be invited to take part in the famous Bridge Tournament at Juan les Pins, as guests of the organizers. These six pairs will receive free demi-pension accommodation at a first-class hotel at Juan les Pins during the week May 5—12 and be able to take part in the competitions held during the week. For these com-

petitions substantial prizes in vouchers are awarded.

The B.B.L. is allotting these six invitations as follows:—

The pairs finishing 1st and 2nd.

The next best pair from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, provided that the country concerned had an *original entry* of at least 50 pairs. Should a country have an original entry of less than 50 pairs, the place will be allotted to the country with the largest original entry.

Should any pair eligible for the Juan les Pins award be unable to accept, the next available pair on the list (in the case of the 1st or 2nd) or the next highest available pair from the country gaining the award (in the case of the four further awards) will receive the invitation.

Secretaries may make their own arrangements for heats, but no heat can be held later than February 28, 1956. Immediately after a heat is held the entry fee of 2/6d. per player, and the names and addresses of the qualifying pairs must be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of the B.B.L. in the case of Ireland, Scotland and Wales and to Major G. Fell in the case of heats held in England.

*The competition is open to all and not only to members of the B.B.L.*

Heats may be held privately but not less than six pairs may constitute a heat. No player may enter more than once.

# SURREY REPORT

Much excellent bridge inside the counties is unavoidably unreported. This was brought home to me in a Surrey Bowl match recently, when clever defence persuaded me to go down in a "cold" game:—

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

North led a fairly small club against four spades, and South play ♣9 under dummy's ace. Dummy's ♠7 was allowed to run (in case South had all the honours) and North won with her king. A second club from North was won with ♣K, and South played ♣10. On dummy's remaining trump South played low, and West paused to shoot piercing glances of suspicion at his lady opponents, who appeared charmingly innocent and transparently honest. If North's ♠K is a true card a deep spade finesse must be taken to prevent South making two trump tricks. The risk is that North has false-carded with two honours, and that South has a doubleton club and has refrained from petering. This combination of circumstances seemed improbable, so I took the finesse North had false-carded with ♠KJ, and now gave her partner a club ruff with her ♠Q.

This was much too well defended by Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Brown, who with Mrs. Symons and Mr. Kortright form a Surbiton team which won this event last year. Their failure to survive the first knock-out round this year was largely due to some fine bidding by my team-mates on these hands:—

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

If this hand was inserted in a pairs contest, a number of pairs would fail to reach a small slam, but Julian Beale (West) and Roy Davidson (East) bid like this:—

<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
2♠	3♠
4♣	4♦
5♣	6♣
7♠	

East was able to show the two vital cards in his hand, and West could bid the grand slam with some confidence. He knew he would be able to ruff his losing diamond unless East had more than six cards in the minor suits. As East had spade support, this would leave the opponents with so many hearts and so many points that their silence throughout would be more than unlikely.

A.T.

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## STOP PRESS

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

CROCKFORD'S CUP

"HUBERT PHILLIPS" BOWL

1st Round	2nd Round	
R. H. Chope	}	Mrs. Carpenter
C. E. Phillips		
J. Lazarus	}	K. M. H. Neale } J. Brown }
C. L. Haddon		
G. R. Dawes	}	G. Fell } D. Gordon Smith }
Mrs. Barnes		
J. Brown	}	M. A. Porter } R. H. Chope }
M. Blank		
E. White	}	W. H. Hinton } Mrs. Cole }
M. Esner		
H. K. Cooke	}	Mrs. Richard
B. P. Topley		
H. Abrahams	}	Mrs. Della-Porta } J. C. J. Tatham }
I. P. Gibb		
Mrs. Williams	}	D. J. Smerdon } Mrs. Forbes }
R. Preston		
M. Harrison-Gray	}	Miss Younghughes } G. C. H. Fox }
A. Truscott		
Miss Nye	}	Mrs. Lester } R. J. Kerr }
G. K. Fenn Smith		
J. M. Moss	}	Mrs. Markus } Mrs. Fleming }
Mrs. Markus		
Mrs. Forbes	}	G. Mathieson } Mrs. Tarlo }
Miss Younghughes		
G. H. Hammond	}	L. D. Levy } Mrs. Kahn }
G. F. Mathieson		
Dr. S. Lee	}	Mrs. Cooper } H. Abrahams }
Dr. S. Gee		
B. B. L. Team	}	Miss Shanahan
N. Kahn		
Mrs. Fleming or		
C. E. Lester		
G. C. H. Fox	}	Mrs. Gordon

1st Round to be completed by Jan. 15th.

1st Round to be completed by Jan. 1st.

*There was a young man of Tremaine,  
Who doubled and doubled again,  
Tho' a venturesome sort  
Bridge was hardly his forte,  
And his last lead, was lead through the brain.*

# THE SEVEN CLUBS OF CHRISTMAS

(The Twelve Days of Christmas—Traditional)

by JOHN HIRST

At love-all and sixty as I was sitting  
south,

My partner had opened one spade.

At love-all and sixty I sorted out my  
cards,

Seven little clubs and my partner had  
opened one spade.

At love-all and sixty I sorted out my  
cards,

Five little reds,  
seven little clubs  
and my partner had opened one spade.

At love-all and sixty I sorted out my  
cards

Bare ace of spades,  
five little reds,  
seven little clubs  
and my partner had opened one spade.

My right hand opponent in accents loud  
remarked

"Three no trumps!"

Bare ace of spades  
five red rags  
seven little clubs  
and my partner had opened one spade.

I pass with a sigh and I lead the eight of  
clubs,

How could I double,

Three no trumps,  
bare ace of spades,  
five red rags,  
seven little clubs  
and my partner had opened one spade.

West plays the nine and my partner  
plays the ace,

East plays the jack

How could I double

Three no trumps

bare ace of spades

five red rags

seven little clubs

and my partner had opened one spade.

Next comes the queen and poor East  
must play the king

Ten from his partner

East is in trouble

How could I double

Three no trumps

Bare ace of spades

five red rags

seven little clubs

and my partner had opened one spade.

East leads the diamond king and up goes  
partner's ace

Spade lead from partner

I'm in the money

East is in trouble

How could I double

Three no trumps

bare ace of spades

five red rags

seven little clubs

and my partner had opened one spade.

Key:—

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

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

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

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

# ANSWERS TO OCTOBER COMPETITION

N.B.—Aggregate scoring conditions are to be assumed in all these problems.

## Problem No. 1 (18 points)

West's hand is:—♠A, ♥AK1043, ♦AJ983, ♣J4.

West is the dealer at Game-all. North-South do not bid. What should West say in each of these auctions?

West	(a)	1♥	2♦	?	(b)	1♥	2♦	?	(c)	1♥	2♦	?
East		1♠	2♠			2♠	2♠			1♠	3NT	

Answers:

- (a) NB-6 3♠-4 3♦-2  
 (b) 4♣-6 3NT-4 3♦-3 4♦-2  
 2NT, 3♣-1  
 (c) 4NT-6 NB-4 4♦-3 5♦-1

West's second bid of two diamonds, consistent with a minimum opening, leaves values of no mean order still undisclosed. Their utility varies considerably in the separate cases. In (a) East's subdued repetition of one suit promises nothing very tangible besides and West's hand may contribute nothing but its top-card tricks. There is not much point in now informing East that the hand is genuinely two-suited when neither suit is likely to produce game as trumps, and doing so may result only in exchanging a safe part-score contract for a shaky one. A raise in spades is perhaps ambitious but it at least has a profitable goal in view. In (b) East's second and more hopeful bid compels West to reveal his hidden reserves; he cannot now at a critical point in the auction continue to act as though he had no better than

minimum opening values. Whether East's spade effort is a naturally descriptive or just a waiting bid, there can be no doubt about real length in clubs. To support them now avoids a tedious argument about the denomination that is all too likely to obstruct a solution of the quantitative problem. If in fact East has been concealing support for one of the red suits, there is nothing to impede him from now uncovering it. In (c) West's is not the sort of unbalanced hand that is unsuitable for no trump play, especially as East is likely to have some filling in at least one of the red suits. Long card tricks from one or both these sources, added to the partnership's substantial honour-card holding, may well produce a slam if East's values approach the maximum. Four no trumps by West, where as here no suit has been agreed and the partner's best bid was in no trumps, is invitational, not conventional. East should appreciate that some of the values justifying it must lie in the suit lengths; if they were honour cards solely, West's slow start is inexplicable.

## Problem No. 2 (18 points)

West's hand is:—♠A1076, ♥765, ♦4, ♣QJ876.

At Game-all East as dealer opens one diamond. North-South do not bid. West responds one spade. What should West say next where East rebids to (a) two hearts, (b) two clubs, (c) one no trump?

Answers:

- (a) NB-6 2NT-2  
 (b) 3♣-6 NB-4  
 (c) NB-6 2♣-3

West's was never exactly a promising hand and in (a) has not really become more so even when East, on account of his reverse bid, is now known to be strong. West may well wonder where the necessary tricks are coming from to produce a no trump game when

his singleton in East's main suit length is likely to prevent its successful establishment. What slender hope for game there is lies in East's red suits possibly being distributed five and six and robust enough for the major to be rebid at the three level. On no account should West raise it in advance of such rebid and thus imply that he himself has the four-card support normally required for a secondary suit. In (b) game prospects, very dim except in the

minor, are obviously distant. But the raise can be justified on the grounds that the resulting part-score contract, if East remains content with it, should be a good one. In (c) there is obviously no game and safety at a part-score is the one consideration. One no trump may not

be the ideal contract for a weak unbalanced hand, but the clubs may well be brought in, a take-out into clubs, though not in itself encouraging, may produce an unwelcome preference for spades from an East who views both suits with equal indifference.

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

West's hand is:—♠A94, ♥6, ♦AKJ6, ♣KQ987.

At the score East-West Game, West opens one club. North passes, East responds two clubs and South doubles. What should West say next where the dealer was (a) West, (b) South?

*Answers:*

- (a) 2♦-5    3♦-4    Rdbl-3  
 5♣, NB-2    4♣, 2♠-1  
 (b) 2♦-5    Rdbl-4    3♦-3  
 5♣, NB-2    4♣, 2♠-1

The two cases differ so little as to produce only a very slight shift in emphasis. West has quite a powerful hand both in attack and defence; to take wildly obstructive measures against the opponents to the prejudice of his own constructive bidding is in effect to give way needlessly to panic. A bid like four clubs gives partner little chance of doing the right thing for the right reason, for he is certain to view it as devoid of constructive purpose and will pass whether his raise was good or bad. In the former case it is by no means

unlikely that game can be made with East's values suitably placed; he can only judge whether they are if fed with the requisite information, and the suggested two diamond bid, obviously forcing when clubs have been agreed, is at least a first step towards supplying it. It will also be helpful to East in defence if opponents play the hand and in deciding whether they should be doubled if they become persistent in the auction. A redouble is no doubt technically correct on a defensively strong hand but withholds specific information from partner without inconveniencing opponents. Since the latter are rather more to be feared in (a) than in (b), its place in the scale of awards moves slightly downwards.

**Problem No. 4 (18 points)**

West's hand is:—♠J95, ♥J8, ♦K102, ♣J10954.

East is the dealer at Game-all. North-South do not bid. What should be West's next call in each of these auctions?

- East (a) 1♠ 2♦ 3♣    (b) 1♠ 2♥ 3♣    (c) 1♠ 2♣  
 West    INT 2♣ ?    INT 2♣ ?    INT ?

*Answers:*

- (a) 3♦-6    4♣-4    4♠-3    3♠-2  
 (b) 3♠-6    4♣-2  
 (c) 2♠-6    NB-3    3♣-1

In (a) and (b) East, though armed with the knowledge that West is weak, has still apparently not abandoned hope of game. Nevertheless, in the absence of a second-round forcing rebid, his total values cannot be really formidable and they must fit at least fairly well with West's if his hopes are to be fulfilled. In (a) the little that West can contribute does seem to be pulling its weight, feeble though it may be; the slightly encouraging bid of three diamonds, which does not raise the level, can therefore be afforded. It is unlikely, though just possible, that East's club bid represents a real suit; it is

designed probably to show a 5-1-4-3 shape. In (b) it is perhaps a little more likely, but here West's sole top honour is almost certainly a wasted card; consequently nothing but a sign-off back into the agreed suit is really justifiable. In (c) West may be said to have no case whatever for continuing when his preference for East's second suit over the first is so marked. But to pass leaves North very well placed to compete in a red suit, whereas a reversion to spades will tend to obstruct him. In any case a spade contract may be only inappreciably inferior to one in clubs, since on this sequence East must have at least a five-card spade length. To raise clubs on such paltry total values must be considered rash.



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**Problem No. 5 (6 points)**

West's hand is:—♠AQ7643, ♥6, ♦A75432, ♣Void.

At the score East-West Game, North deals and passes. East opens one club, South passes and West responds one spade. North doubles and East redoubles. South and West pass. North bids two hearts, East doubles and South passes. What should West say?

*Answer:*

NB-6 3♠-4 3♦-3 4♠-2 4♦-1

At first glance this does not seem to be a hand on which to acquiesce in partner's low-level double of one of the absent suits, but the implications of the opponents' actions must be studied. North, having previously passed, can reasonably come in later with a double only if he has a decided liking for the two unbid suits, though he need not necessarily have an extreme two-suiter. His partner, though asked to choose between them, declines to do so and therefore probably dislikes them both. He will almost certainly be stuffed with clubs and may well have quite a few spades. East, it is true, is unlikely to

have risked a redouble with a small singleton spade; but since he has chosen to double non-vulnerable opponents rather than support his partner's major, he can scarcely be relied on for more than a doubleton honour and may have less. West, with the liability of his string of small diamonds, is therefore quite likely to fail in an attempt at a spade game. This may in fact be one of those hands where either side will flop badly at any contract at which they could reasonably be expected to stop. West himself has such good defensive values in his bids for a one-level response, and has an additional hope of a trick from his club void, that he should not fear for the success of the venture that his partner has proposed.

**Problem No. 6 (18 points)**

West's hand is:—♠1074, ♥K764, ♦4, ♣A8762.

At Game-all, East as dealer opens one spade. North-South do not bid. West responds two spades. What should he say next where East rebids to (a) three diamonds, (b) three clubs, (c) three spades?

*Answers:*

- (a) 3♥-6 4♠-4 3♣-2
- (b) 4♣-6 4♠-5
- (c) 4♠-6 NB-2

West's poor trump support may cause some to regard his first response as irregular, but most will consider it the best available. In fact, provided East has a fairly decent trump suit, his total values are decidedly above a minimum for a single raise. In none of these cases, therefore, should he wish to be

blankly discouraging if East bids again. In (a) the fit in East's two suits is too poor for a raise to game to be wholly justified; but a further probing bid in hearts, still at the three level, is at his disposal. In (b) there is a markedly good fit for the second suit and the natural raise to the four level should be made. In (c) East does not seem to be concerned with a fit in any particular quarter and is asking the plain question whether West's raise was better than the purely courtesy type.

**Problem No. 7 (12 points)**

West's hand is:—♠K5, ♥A6543, ♦J9764, ♣2.

East is the dealer at Love-all. What should West say next in each of these auctions?

East	(a) 1♣	1NT	3♦	(b) 1♣	3♣	3♥
West	1♥	2♦	?	1♥	3♦	?

*Answers:*

- (a) 3♠-6 NB-4 4♦-2
- (b) NB-6 4♥-4 3NT-2

In (a) West has already severely limited his hand by his second bid, a simple take-out into a minor from no trumps. If he appears to be straining after a game now, East should have no

illusions about his high-card strength. Obviously, if there is to be any hope of game at all, East must not be over-weighted in clubs, since the two hands could not then conceivably fit well enough. The three spade bid is designed to suggest this and can be said to be just, but only just, worth making.

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