

The British

MEDIUM FOR ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION NEWS

Bridge

SUCCESSOR TO THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

World

EDITED BY TERENCE REESE

January 1956

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

American News-Letter, by Alfred Sheinwold

Famous Hands from Famous Matches, by M. Harrison Gray

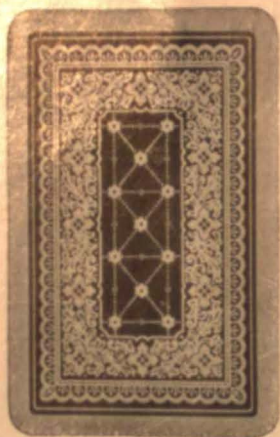
Exceptions to the Rule, by Jean Besse

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The British Bridge World

SUCCESSOR TO THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL:
MEDIUM FOR ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION NEWS

Edited by
TERENCE REESE

VOLUME 1 **January 1956** NUMBER 1

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Editorial

The sad news of the death of Ely Culbertson came as we went to press. An appreciation by Alfred Sheinwold will appear in our next issue.

FULL CYCLE

A new magazine? Not altogether; there was a *British Bridge World*, sponsored by De La Rue and edited by Hubert Phillips, from December 1932 up to the war. The *Contract Bridge Journal* began in 1946, and it is appropriate now to pay tribute to the most able and largely disinterested efforts of the successive editors: M. Harrison Gray, Dr. Paul Stern, Guy Ramsey, and Harry Ingram. Harry was invited to continue as editor of the present magazine, but he felt that he was entitled to a rest after five years.

NO FORTUNE

Disinterested; you caught that word, and the implication behind it? It is no secret that no fortune has yet been made out of a bridge magazine, and some, indeed, have been lost. The *B.B.W.* has the backing of the great firm of Thomas De La Rue, so that finance is not a direct problem. At the same time, no one likes to put a lot of work into a venture

that is not a success. We do ask all our present readers, therefore, to mention the *B.B.W.* to their friends and, still better, to take out a subscription (see page 27) on a friend's behalf.



As for those unhelpful characters who will go to great lengths to see a copy but will not themselves subscribe, let them bear in mind the fate of the man who stepped off the pavement to avoid a flag-seller and was knocked over by a bus.

TALENT

For our part, we have sought to assemble the finest writers and the best features possible. In presentation, also, we have aimed at new standards, and with experience we shall improve on these. If you have any ideas or comments—well, that blank of page 28 is waiting to be filled.

BRANDO SAID IT FIRST

The Editorial Board, at its first meeting, gave careful thought to that eternal problem, regional news. What happens in the first round of a Surrey competition is not, let's face it, of notable interest to the reader in Lancashire. On the other hand, an actor, said Marlon Brando recently, is a guy who, if you ain't talking about him, he ain't listening, and bridge players are also a bit that way. So, for his feature "Tournament World," Harold Franklin will welcome news from everywhere.

"ACROSS THE GREEN BAIZE"

Another debatable matter is copy on an elementary level. No doubt, the great majority who read a bridge magazine are proficient at the game and are not looking for articles designed primarily for beginners. Nevertheless, there must be many who can say to a friend, or to a member of the family, "Some of this will be above your head, but you can learn from this chap Baxter who writes 'Across the Green Baize'."

CÔTE d'AZUR

May we draw attention to the splendid first prize that is being offered to the winner over the first three months of our monthly competition? The prize is full pension for two at a first-class hotel in Juan-Les-Pins during the tournament from May 5th to 12th. Prizes apart, these competitions set by Jack Marx provide a splendid exercise for any player who is keen to improve his judgment and his technique.

Special late announcement

W. Somerset Maugham C.H.

*has kindly promised to write an article for the February issue of
The British Bridge World*

American News-Letter

by ALFRED SHEINWOLD

*Alfred Sheinwold is Publicity Relations Officer for the American Contract Bridge League and an Associate Editor of the **Bridge World**. He will write every month on the American scene.*

More than 1,500 bridge players assembled in Miami Beach early in December to take part in the 29th annual Winter National Tournament of the American Contract Bridge League. Many of these were, to be sure, players of modest attainments from the neighbouring countryside, bent only on playing in special one-session events. Several hundred had, however, come from distant points (one from Vancouver, and several from California, about 3,000 miles away!) to play in the championship events.

Most of America's distinguished bridge players came to the tournament, and the titles were fought for by most of the players known to English readers. For example, Sidney Silodor and Helen Sobel won the mixed pair event, closely followed by George Rapee and Alicia Kempner. A Jacoby team won the Open Team event, a Roth team won the Men's Team event, whilst the Open Pair title went to Milton Ellenby and partner.

YOUNG BLOOD

The best part of the story lies in the exact composition of the partnerships and teams just described. The Jacoby team included son Jim Jacoby, aged 22, marking the first time that a father-son combination had won a national championship here. Other members of this all-Texas team were George Heath, Paul Hodge, and Ben Fain, not well-known abroad, perhaps, but all amongst the leading handful of American experts.

Roth's partner for all three sessions of the Men's Team championship was Dick Freeman, likewise aged 22. Other members of the team were Ralph Hirschberg, Norman Kay, and Edgar Kaplan, the two last-named being barely out of their twenties.

Ellenby, himself only 30, was partnered in the Open Pairs by Emanuel Hochfeld, a 25-year-old army private.

It is no accident, of course, that so many young experts win

national championships in American tournaments. These young players are very good—as good as one need be to win a national title. They cut their teeth in their late teens on master point tournaments, were infected by the master point virus, and never recovered from the disease. Any country that wants to develop a large number of first-class young players would do well to institute a master point system.*

“SIX NO TRUMPS, SIX NO TRUMPS, SIX NO TRUMPS”

A two-session individual event at the beginning of the tournament produced the usual number of misunderstandings. In one of them, one of the players must have thought his partner was playing an unannounced Vienna response.

The player in question opened the bidding as dealer with One Diamond, and his partner mumbled a no trump response of some kind. The dealer thereupon made a rebid of Two Diamonds.

As it happened, the responder had jumped to *Six* No Trumps, holding 19 points, and not want-

ing to invite a complicated auction with a strange partner. He was a bit nonplussed to hear Two Diamonds bid over his Six No Trumps, but calmly bid Six No Trumps again, prepared to keep this up for several more rounds if the need should develop.

No further repetition was necessary, and the responder made his slam with ease. “This is something we didn’t discuss, partner,” said the dealer after he had seen his partner produce Aces and Kings by the bushel despite his supposed One No Trump response. “Evidently your response of One No Trump to a minor is made on a rather sound hand!”

NIGHTMARE

The most unusual hand of the tournament found 13 unhappy West players in possession of a money player’s nightmare:

♠ 6 5 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣ 4

At most tables this hand became the opening leader against a contract of Four Hearts—and took the only defensive trick by ruffing a club!

By way of contrast, most East players came a cropper on the following deal despite their 29 points in high cards:—

**The English Bridge Union has appointed a committee to study the master point system and is moving, somewhat slowly, towards their introduction in England.*

Ed.

	NORTH	
East	♠ 9 5 2	Both sides
dealer	♥ 8 7	vulnerable
	♦ J 9 7 5 2	
	♣ 10 6 2	

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

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 4 3

♥ Q 10 9 4

♦ 4 3

♣ 4 3

The contract was usually game or slam in a red suit or too many in No Trumps. One player got to Six Clubs by means of a Two Club (forcing) opening and a rather silly continuation.

The play was not so silly. South opened the ♠A and then properly shifted to a trump. East took a second round of trumps and led out his three top diamonds, discarding two hearts from the dummy.

East had hoped to establish the diamonds with one ruff at most, after which he would try to establish the hearts with one ruff. The bad break in diamonds, together with South's failure to ruff the third diamond, persuaded East to play South for both of the missing Queens.

East ruffed a diamond in the dummy, ruffed a spade in his hand, ruffed another diamond in the dummy, and drew the last trump with dummy's Jack. East discarded the low heart on dummy's last trump, but South could not find a safe discard. He naturally bore down to ♠Q and ♥Q10, but East disdained the heart finesse. Who would take a mere finesse rather than play for this dummy reversal cum squeeze?

"EXCUSE ME, BUT HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE SOMEWHERE?"

By the time the tournament neared the end of its nine-day term, some of the players were in no condition to recognize anything but the Ace of spades. The following incident is reported as true (but not guaranteed by this reporter):

Charles Hall, a well-known American expert, boarded a lift and heard somebody say "Hello, Charlie." He looked up, saw a face that looked vaguely familiar, and responded "Er, hello," somewhat blankly.

Then, realizing that the other man was probably a bridge player, and that some politeness would not go amiss, Charlie asked, "How'd you go today?"

"For Heaven's sake, Charlie," exclaimed the other fellow, "I was your partner all afternoon!"

Mr. Simon stakes a claim

by M. HARRISON GRAY

No one is likely to forget my old friend and partner, the late S. J. ("Skid") Simon, and it seems fitting that he should figure in the opening episode of this series. The hand below, which helped our team to win the London championship of 1948, illustrates his style and habits, not to mention the dubious joys of partnering him in a critical match. In our room Simon was North and I was South.

South Dealer

North-South vulnerable

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

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No	1♣	Dbl. (1)	1♦
2♦ (2)	No	3♦ (3)	4♦
4♠ (4)	No	No	No

(1) If his partner had passed originally, Skid felt entitled to



In addition to his fame as a player and writer, M. Harrison Gray is the game's best raconteur. In this series he will describe classic hands from bridge history and the story behind them.

This drawing was made at the Monte Carlo tournament in 1955, where Gray was just pipped for first place in the World Masters Individual.

shade his take-out doubles down to rock-bottom. The logic behind this theory escaped his long-suffering partners.

- (2) An easy game in one of the majors seems assured. After all, North has doubled at unfavourable vulnerability.
- (3) Skid was never at a loss in this situation. His invariable policy when things looked sticky—let partner play the hand.
- (4) Smothering his rage, South chooses luckily.

Prospects at first seemed poor. West played three rounds of clubs, East ruffing the third and forcing out ♠J. When East failed on the lead of ♠K, West became marked with ten cards in the black suits, and a break in hearts looked highly improbable.

NORTH

♠ A
♥ K 8 4
♦ 7 3
♣ —

WEST

♠ Q
♥ —
♦ J 5
♣ 9 7 5

EAST

♠ —
♥ J 10 9
♦ A Q 10
♣ —

SOUTH

♠ —
♥ A 6 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ —

South continued with ♠9 and ♠8, West playing low, and entered dummy with ♥Q, leaving positions shown in left hand column.

♠A drew the last trump and East, embarrassed, discarded ♦10. South threw a heart, and a diamond lead from dummy established both ♦K and ♦8, so the contract was duly made. (In the other room North-South held their peace, and our East player made a contract of Two Diamonds).

“Claim hand,” snapped Skid as the last card was played. “Oh, no,” I said, having seen his point. “We’ll discuss it later,” said Skid huffily.

This cryptic repartee was quite normal—Simon held that a prompt “Bags I” gave him copyright of any hand that took his fancy. He eventually got his way by arguing that I could scarcely say how well I had played the hand if I wrote about it myself.

The story was spread over three weeks in Skid’s *Observer* column, but I looked in vain for any reference to South’s dummy play. The spotlight was turned on East’s flabby defence. To break up the squeeze, all he had to do was to jettison his ♦AQ, so that the second round could be taken care of by West’s Jack!

Test Your Play

These are practical problems of a sort that a good player should be able to solve. If you are right on three out of the four, then you don't drop many tricks in the play. The answers are on pages 31-32, but do not look at them until you have arrived at your own solution.

No. 1 NORTH
 ♠ 6
 ♥ A K Q 7 6
 ♦ A 5 3
 ♣ K J 8 4

♦4 led SOUTH
 ♠ 7 3
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ Q J 7 6
 ♣ A Q 6 3 2

South plays in Six Clubs, the opponents not having bid. West leads ♦4. How should South play—should he go up with the ♦A, or should he finesse?

No. 2 NORTH
 ♠ A 9 7 6 5
 ♥ K 8 4 2
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ 10 6

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

South plays in Four Hearts. West opens ♣K and follows with ♣J; East overtakes with the Ace and returns ♦6. How should South plan the play from this point?

No. 3 NORTH
 ♠ Q 5
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 4
 ♣ Q 10 2

♥9 led SOUTH
 ♠ A K 6 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K J 7 5
 ♣ A 6 5

South plays in Seven Diamonds after East has overcalled in Hearts. There are 12 tricks on top, counting two heart ruffs. How should South play for the thirteenth?

No. 4 NORTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ A Q 10 7 6 2
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A K 7 6 3 2

♦7 led EAST
 ♠ K 10 6 4 2
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A J 5 4
 ♣ J 5

North opened with a bid of Two Hearts and South responded Two Spades. In the subsequent bidding North showed his pronounced two-suiter, but South won the day with Six No Trumps. West led ♦7 and East won with the Ace. What should East have returned, and can you say why?

Exceptions to the Rule

by JEAN BESSE

Jean Besse, the famous Swiss international, is coming to London next month to play in the Masters Pairs with Claude Reichenbach

When a tricky trump contract is reached, defender's task is often tough.

Average players, when in doubt, follow certain general principles. Among them:

1. Do not give declarer a ruff and discard.
2. When possible, force declarer to ruff in his own hand, shortening his trump suit.

Bridge play, however, cannot always be reduced to such simple formulae.

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

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	Dbl.	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West leads ♥K, ♥A, dropping South's doubleton Queen. Now what?

If West passively leads a club or a diamond, declarer forces West's trump Ace and, regaining the lead, pulls all trumps out and eventually runs his established diamonds.

West therefore must take action. This action can only be directed against declarer's trumps. Thus, at trick 3, *West leads the ♥J*, allowing declarer a "ruff and discard."

South of course has to expend a trump, let us say from his own hand. South then offers the ♠K to West, but West does not care. He just ducks ♠K, and ♠Q as well.

West takes his ♠A on the third round and leads a killing fourth heart, removing North's last trump; down goes the contract, West having established a trump

and a heart for down two. (Alternatively, should South stop leading trumps after the second round, West will make his small trump by ruffing for down one.)

Simple. But consider the following:—
East dealer
Love all

NORTH
♠ 6 5 4
♥ A K 5
♦ A J 3
♣ 7 6 4 2

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

The bidding begins:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	DbL.	Redbl.	Pass
Pass	1♠	?	

Now what? Should North bid Two Hearts? The hand is strong for that, and Three Hearts is also not ideal. In my opinion the best call is PASS, for South, after North has redoubled, must not let the opponents play in One Spade undoubled.

It so happens that South's next bid is Two Diamonds; whereupon North, with his good fit for both suits, raises to FOUR HEARTS.

West opens ♣K, East plays the Queen, and South follows suit. West *of course* leads a small club at trick 2, East being marked with ♣J. Either East will win and lead a spade, or declarer will have to ruff, shortening his trump suit, in accordance with the above Principle 2.

And *of course* West should have thought a little more before leading this silly small club.

Is it not easy to reconstruct the full hand? Remember that East passed the redouble of One Heart, so is unlikely to have more than three spades. South must hold, at the least:—

♠ K x x
♥ Q J 10 x x
♦ K Q 10 x
♣ x

You can see now why that second club from West is a lazy play. It allows declarer to effect a dummy reversal by ruffing three clubs in his own hand. That will give him ten tricks—three hearts in dummy, three ruffs by South, and four diamonds. But if West leads a heart or a diamond at trick 2 South will be an entry short for the dummy reversal and will make only nine tricks.

England v. Scotland

Camrose Trophy (Hand 62)

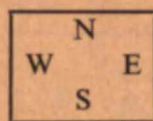
10-11th December, 1955

South
dealer

♠ K J 7 4
♥ K Q 10
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 10 5

East-West
vulnerable

♠ 10 3
♥ 8 6 4 2
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ A 3



♠ 9 5
♥ 9 7 5 3
♦ J
♣ K Q 8 7 4 2

♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ A J
♦ K 9 6 5
♣ 9 6

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>D. Skinner</i>	<i>J. Tarlo</i>	<i>Mrs. Davidson</i>	<i>Dr Rockfelt</i>
1♠	No	3♦	No
4♦	No	4♠	No
4NT	No	5♦	No
6♠	No	No	No

Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>P. Juan</i>	<i>A. Benjamin</i>	<i>Mrs. B. Gordon</i>	<i>L. Mitchell</i>
1♠	No	2NT	No
3♦	No	3♠	No
4♥	No	6♠	No
No	No		

Room 1. Even the best players often reach a slam with two top losers in one suit when loaded with all the high cards in the other suits. In this case South might have avoided the trouble if he had bid Five Hearts instead of "the old Black." With the club weakness thus pin-pointed, North-South could have stayed in Five Spades.

However, the best players do not always find the killing lead, and here Joel Tarlo led a small diamond, convinced by the bidding that East must be void. East had not doubled Six Spades, however, as he might well have done had he been void in diamonds. In any event, West can lead ♣A first and, if necessary, follow with a diamond at trick 2.

Room 2. The English North-South had the same trouble as the Scots and got too high. North presumably took the Four Heart bid to show shape and guarantee a singleton club, but this is no certainty, and she would have been wiser to bid Five Spades or Five Diamonds on the third round. The Two No Trump bid, incidentally, is the Baron system bid to show a strong balanced hand with 16-19 points.

The Scottish West had no reason on this bidding to find a diamond lead attractive: he led his ♠A, and then his ♣3. This disposed of the slam, and Scotland gained 8 I.M.P. As reported elsewhere, England won the match by 41 I.M.P.

Camrose Trophy (Hand 81)

South
dealer

♠ Q 8 2
♥ 6 3 2
♦ Q 6 5 2
♣ Q 10 8

Both sides
vulnerable

♠ A 6
♥ K 8 5
♦ K 8 4 3
♣ J 6 3 2



♠ J 10 7 5 4 3
♥ Q 7
♦ A J 10 9 7
♣ —

♠ K 9
♥ A J 10 9 4
♦ —
♣ A K 9 7 5 4

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Dr. Rockfelt</i>	<i>J. McLaren</i>	<i>J. Tarlo</i>	<i>Dr. Forbes</i>
1♣	No	1♦	1♠
2♥	2♠	No	4♠
Dbl.	No	No	No

Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>L. Mitchell</i>	<i>J. Sharples</i>	<i>A. Benjamin</i>	<i>R. Sharples</i>
1♣	No	1♦	1♠
3♥	3♠	No	No
4♥	No	No	No

Room 1. West's raise to Two Spades is a good bid which would occur only to a good player, and the jump to Four Spades is a well-timed piece of aggression: East has no great hopes of making the contract, but he certainly does not want to defend against a club or heart game by South. The opening club lead was ruffed, and declarer played a trump to the Ace and another trump. As the bidding marked South with ♥A and North with ♦Q, East had no trouble in making ten tricks.

Room 2. Here also West supported spades, and East's final pass of Four Hearts looks strange on paper. He felt that West was more likely to have a high club, useful only in defence, than a high diamond, invaluable in attack. This consideration, together with the probability of a bad spade break, induced him to pass. An inspired club lead defeats Four Hearts immediately, and an inspired diamond lead makes the hand unmanageable; but West made the natural lead of ♠A followed by a club for East to ruff, after which there was no defence.

790 in Room 1 plus 620 in Room 2 gave Scotland 9 I.M.P., the biggest swing of the match.

L. TARLO v. R. PRESTON

London Championship (Melville Smith Trophy) 12th December, 1955

West
dealer

♠ Q 9 8
♥ 3
♦ A K Q 10 3
♣ K 7 5 4

Neither side
vulnerable

♠ 5 3
♥ 7 6 5
♦ J 9 6 4 2
♣ Q J 6



♠ A J 10
♥ A K Q 9 4
♦ 5
♣ 10 8 3 2

♠ K 7 6 4 2
♥ J 10 8 2
♦ 8 7
♣ A 9

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>J. Flint</i>	<i>R. Swimen</i>	<i>R. Pridav</i>	<i>R. Preston</i>
	No	1♦	Dbl.
No	1♥	Dbl.	2♥
4♠	No	No	No

Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>M. Wolach</i>	<i>H. Franklin</i>	<i>A. Rose</i>	<i>J. Tarlo</i>
	No	1♦	Dbl.
No	1♥	2♣	3♥
Dbl.	No	No	No

Room 1. Aggressive bidding by both North and South landed Flint in an almost hopeless contract. The lead of ♣Q was won by dummy's ♣K, and the singleton heart was led. East won and returned a club, and South played a trump to dummy's Queen and East's Ace. East, fearing that dummy's diamond suit could be run by declarer, now forced dummy by playing a top heart. A club ruff and a heart ruff improved the prospects slightly for South, who then led winning diamonds from dummy. East had placed South with three cards in each red suit, and therefore delayed his ruff till the third round of diamonds. This permitted South to discard his remaining heart and make the contract. Careful analysis should show East that he cannot lose by ruffing immediately.

Room 2. Again it was the Tarlo team that seized the initiative in the bidding. ♦A was led, followed by a trump, and the obvious five tricks were lost—two clubs, one spade, one heart and one diamond. At double-dummy West can be defeated by two tricks, but only on the inspired lead of North's ♠8 (or ♠9). The defence can now take one spade, two clubs and a ruff, and a diamond; at that point North's last club promotes a trump trick for South. Immediate club ruffs do not help the defence, as West can discard a spade on the fourth round of clubs.

Tarlo gained 4 I.M.P. on this deal and won the match by 32 I.M.P.

What they say about Bridge

Hubert Phillips interviews well-known people who also play bridge

1. Mrs. Prudence Hooper

Frederic Collins Hooper is the oldest of my friends; we were born within a year of one another and were at school together. Hooper is a man of immense ability and immense industry. He succeeded Sir Frederick Marquis (now Lord Woolton) as boss of Lewis's, Liverpool, and its associated stores; when, in this field, there were no worlds left to conquer, he transferred his allegiance to soft drinks and is now Lord Lieutenant of Schwepshire. He is also a front-rank broadcaster and a connoisseur and patron of contemporary art.

Mrs. Hooper, who is the subject of this interview, is also, in her own right, a considerable personality. In the war she joined the A.T.S. as a cook and ended as a Senior Commander, in charge of A.T.S. publicity. Afterwards, as Prudence Neill, she became a well-known B.B.C. impresario, producing and interviewing in the Light Programme. She took

part, also, in several "Bridge on the Air" programmes.



Prudence Hooper is a woman of great charm and intelligence. More than one artist of distinction has painted her portrait. She lives an active life; partly in town, partly down in Kent. Here she runs a cherry and apple

farm and is bringing up her small daughter, Emma. Emma, aged six, has already mastered Canasta—which, considering her parentage, is not altogether surprising.

And so to Bridge. Mrs. Hooper might be described as a better-than-average club player. Better than average, because she has flair; she can weigh up, intuitively, the capacities of partners and opponents. "I play the players rather than the cards" she told me. "I don't worry much about point-counts or systems—unless, of course, my partners want me to. I try and play whatever my partner is playing—as long as it's not too complicated."

"You have no favourite system of your own, then?"

"Not really. We mostly play Two Clubs and Blackwood—I'm speaking of the Curzon House Club—so I do the same. But I don't think much of Blackwood, actually."

"You don't like it?"

"It's useless if you want to show a void."

Mrs. Hooper plays for a shilling a hundred, "or more if anyone wants me to." She keeps a plus and minus account, and expects, at the end of a year, to come out on the right side.

I raised the subject of competitive Bridge, but Mrs. Hooper

wasn't interested. She has never entered for a tournament, attended a congress, or seen an international match. But she knows a number of ranking players, whom she met in "Bridge on the Air," and reads, with interest and appreciation, some of our contemporary writers. She particularly enjoys Harrison Gray's "Country Life" articles and Terence Reese in the "Observer."

"Why do you like Bridge, Prudence?" I asked her.

"We all do, don't we? And for all sorts of reasons. It keeps one's mind alert. It's a sociable game; a friendly game. And where should we be without it when we grow old?"

"You echo what, I think it was Talleyrand said: 'You don't play whist, young man? You are laying up for yourself a dull old age'."

We talked about other card games. Mrs. Hooper likes Piquet; doesn't think much of Canasta. I showed her the two-handed Bridge game which, for want of a better name, I call Option. She got the hang of it in a couple of deals. She doubled me in Four Hearts, glanced at the second Dummy (exposed after the auction) and said "You'll be three down, won't you?" And so I was.

Any Questions?

Tricky problems are answered independently by a panel of four. The members of the panel this month are Kenneth Konstam, Harold Franklin, Boris Schapiro, and Jack Marx.

1 Love all in a team-of-four match with aggregate scoring.

North holds:—

♠J86542, ♥J, ♦K9652, ♣4

The bidding proceeds:—

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

Mr. H. G. Field, of Carson Road, West Dulwich, writes: "What should North do now? Two Spades, Two Hearts, Two Diamonds, or No Bid? Would vulnerability, or a different system of scoring, make a difference?"

I consider that with aggregate scoring North should rebid Two Spades. Vulnerability would make no difference to my decision but the system of scoring would. With a good partner, which would presumably be the case in a team-of-four match, I would rebid Two Diamonds if the system were match points since the necessity for finding a fit is more important. No good player could take this bid as anything but a weak two-suiter and partner is unlikely to bid anything but Two Hearts, Two Spades or Two No Trumps. If he bids Two Hearts I rebid Two Spades—if he bids Two No Trumps I return to Three Diamonds since he must have something in one of my suits. Two Spades I would pass but if he could raise a Three Spade bid I would stagger on to Four. But I must say with many partners and particularly at rubber bridge I would pass One Heart.

Kenneth Konstam

No Bid. I want to stop before I get in too deep and I rely on my opponents to give me my best chance of a plus score. If they contest and play the hand I am out of trouble, and if Two Clubs is doubled I can show my diamonds without any fear of misleading partner.

Of the alternatives, there seems to be least to commend a preference to Two Hearts. Two Diamonds is forcing in my system. Two Spades is much the safest of the positive bids. Although it could be made on a

better hand than this, it is a limited bid and an understanding partner will not be likely to startle you with a leap to Three No Trumps.

Harold Grantham

No Bid, emphatically and unquestionably; any other bid suicidal. The worst bid, in my opinion, and the most dangerous, would be Two Hearts, as a cheerfully optimistic partner might well go to Four Hearts, having elicited a preference; and this contract would surely go down heavily. My axiom is: When you see danger, pass quickly; the opponents might come in—let THEM get into trouble instead. I might add that unless I were playing with a top-class partner I would not even bid One Spade on this hand in the first place.

B. Schapiro

With such poor material North must not lose sight of his motives for ever having bid at all. No doubt they were mixed: (a) to improve on the cheerless contract of One Heart at some tolerable part-score level; (b) to avoid missing game, however improbable. (b) was plainly overshadowed from the start and by now has become almost eclipsed. Two Hearts and No Bid obviously make utter nonsense of the dominant (a). Two Diamonds, feasible with a clairvoyant partner, would be regarded by the less gifted as stimulating and by some of them as forcing. Two Spades, a stale and subdued repetition that promises nothing beyond the one long suit, comes nearest to striking the necessary mournful note. My choice would not have been influenced by vulnerability or mode of scoring, but my decision to bid in the first place might have been.

Jack Hays

Terence Reese sums up

Bidding style makes a difference here; Konstam does not regard Two Diamonds as encouraging, but the others do.

I would take the view that game was improbable and a plus score difficult to achieve. At aggregate scoring, therefore, I would pass and accept the loss in Two Clubs, avoiding calamity. In another situation—vulnerable in a match-pointed pairs, for example—I would bid Two Spades, since that represents the best chance to escape with a small loss.

2 Game all, West holds:—
♠A, ♥86432, ♦AJ53, ♣AKJ

The bidding proceeds:—

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

Jean Besse, of Paris, writes:
“One may not agree with West’s

pass on the first round, but please take the question as it stands. It was debated over many pages some time ago in the American Bridge World, and most experts said that it was insoluble. Can the B.B.W. panel give a better answer?”

The problem posed to the panel is one of the trickiest I have ever found. It should be borne in mind that East has re-opened the bidding with a minimum bid of One Spade. He is unlikely to have better than, say:—♠KJxxxx, ♥x, ♦Qxx, ♣xxx.

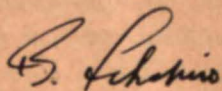
With that holding game is doubtful for East-West and the bid most likely to get a good result is a pass. The only hand on which this tactic would lose would be a two-suiter such as KJxxx in spades and Q10xxx in diamonds or clubs with East, but I would be prepared to risk missing this game. My alternative choice is Two Diamonds.

Kenneth Lane

There are prospects of game if partner has either good spades or a second suit, preferably diamonds. Further information is wanted, and unfortunately Two Hearts will not help because that would suggest a desire to play in hearts. My choice is Three Diamonds. This should be read as invitation to game in spades; it cannot be based on strong diamonds, because the player has passed over One Heart on the previous round. If partner has a fair six-card suit of spades, it is up to him to jump to Four Spades; if he can raise diamonds, so much the better; if he can only sign off in Three Spades, that should be enough.

Harold Groubi

Four Spades; the only conceivable alternative, Three Spades, much too chicken-hearted and putting undue pressure on partner, who cannot possibly have enough goodies to go on to Four. I must hope that partner has come in with a reasonable spade suit, as he is unlikely to have many high cards, and the chances are that he has "protected" on some such holding as ♠Kxxxxx, ♥x, ♦Qx, ♣Qxxx. There is not much point in bidding Two Hearts or Three Diamonds, and No Trumps seems senseless.



West's hand is a giant, but a muscle-bound giant, with strength in the short suits. Game may yet be makeable either in spades, if East has a good suit, or in a minor, if he should be two-suited. West must extract information by means of a one-round force. Since Two Hearts is ambiguous, Three Diamonds is the only call. To a thoughtful East it will convey neither magnificent diamonds, which could have been bid before, nor concealed "normal" support for spades, which would be raised now. He will assume that he is being asked to limit his hand as naturally as he can. With really good spades he bids Four; with poorer only Three; with a club length he shows it; with diamond support he raises to the limit.



Terence Reese sums up

Psychologically, the replies are most interesting. Konstam thinks that game is difficult to reach with any exactness and makes sure of a plus score by saying No Bid. Schapiro thinks that there should be a play for game and will give his partner no opportunity to muddle it. The answers of Franklin and Marx, in favour of Three Diamonds, are finely reasoned; but could one be sure that partner would draw the right inferences and bid Four Spades on the right hands?

The point is that partner does not have to hold long spades for Four Spades to be a possible contract; he can make his trumps by ruffing hearts. Although it has some drawbacks, I consider that the most balanced call is Three Spades.

Expert Judgment

by PAUL MASTERS

Before you read this article, detach the perforated slip from page 7 and bid the hand with your favourite partner. Then compare your bidding with that of these three master pairs:—

J. Flint and R. A. Friday.

J. Tarlo and Dr. M. Rockfelt.

L. Tarlo and J. C. H. Marx.

There were quite a few notables among the victims of the following deal at the Porthcawl Congress:—

NORTH

♠ Q 9 2

♥ A 10 4

♦ K 10 8 7 2

♣ Q 6

SOUTH

♠ A K 8 6

♥ 5

♦ A 4

♣ A 9 8 7 5 2

South was the dealer at Love-all. The hand occurred in a multiple team event. All 13 tables found the unlucky solution of Three No Trumps, for which there is almost no play after a Heart lead.

The first two rounds of bidding present no problem. South opens One Club and rebids One Spade over One Diamond; North's second round bid of Two No

Trumps is automatic. Most South players realized now that the hand should produce a game somewhere but could see no satisfactory way of investigating the alternatives and simply raised to Three No Trumps. In the hope of persuading some of these players to a more "scientific" approach next time, we offered the hand to three pairs of leading experts.

The first leavening of science came from J. Flint and R. A. Friday, two potential members of the next European Championship team:—

SOUTH	NORTH
<i>Flint</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1♣	1♦
1♠	2NT
3♦	3♠
4♣	4♦
4♠	5♣
No	

There is no better contract than Five Clubs and the auction cer-

tainly investigated all the alternatives. The key bid was South's Three Diamonds—clearly forcing, for with a weak 4-2-3-4 South would pass Two No Trumps, and with better diamonds and a moderate hand he would support at once. After the Three Diamond bid had pin-pointed the heart weakness North realized that his single stopper would be inadequate for no trumps and accordingly showed his support for spades. The Four Club bid could mean nothing but 6-4 distribution and was so interpreted by North when he returned to Five Clubs over Four Spades. Undoubtedly, a fine auction.

J. Tarlo and Dr. M. Rockfelt, also championship aspirants, were the next to try:—

SOUTH	NORTH
<i>J. Tarlo</i>	<i>Dr. Rockfelt</i>
1♣	1♦
1♠	2NT
3♣	3♠
4♣	4♥
5♦	6♣
No	

This contract is ambitious, but by no means impossible. The chances are good if only one trump trick is lost, but the chance of losing two trump tricks is of course worse than even.

South's bid of Three Clubs is a little puzzling. By most standards

the bid is non-forcing and should show a weak 6-4; actually, South should be looking for game, not signing off. North's bid of Three Spades gave South a chance to "catch up," and the bid of Four Clubs was a sign of strength.

North might have been content now with a raise to Five Clubs, but in view of his quiet bid of Three Spades on the previous round he felt that he could safely show the Ace of hearts. South's bid of Five Diamonds now committed the partnership to a slam; his bid was hardly justified, for North would have to hold precise cards for the slam to be a worthwhile proposition—Queen of spades, Ace of hearts, and the two minor suit Kings. However, criticism of the final contract must be tempered by the reflection that Six Clubs is a better prospect than the fatal Three No Trumps.

Finally we called upon an unfamiliar partnership, L. Tarlo and J. C. H. Marx:—

SOUTH	NORTH
<i>L. Tarlo</i>	<i>Marx</i>
1♣	1♦
1♠	2NT
3♦	4♦
5♣	No

Over Two No Trumps Tarlo, like Flint, finds the bid of Three Diamonds. North's raise to Four Diamonds has the disadvantage of

tending to exclude a contract in spades—but the test is the final contract, and Five Clubs cannot be bettered.

How many of you fell into the No Trump trap? For those who

did, the efforts of our experts may have been instructive. Congratulate yourselves if you reached Five Clubs, be well satisfied with Four Spades, and if you reached Six Clubs—you would have made it on one of your lucky evenings!

Stayman on Bidding

Reviewed by Kenneth Konstam

“The Stayman System of Contract Bidding” (Rockliffe Press, 25/-) is not only a new bridge book but a treatise on bidding which discusses and thoroughly dissects every angle of it and welds together into a complete system all the best that can be taken from other systems. In fact so much hard work and detailed research would appear to have gone into this “magnum opus” that one marvels that the author can have had time during the last few years to have won three World Championships and also give time to his more than successful business career.

Stayman's wealth of experience as a player lends force to his bidding theories. He has set out to show that exactness in bidding science is the most important

single factor in tournament bridge, and in this respect he can justifiably lay claim to a unique position in the bridge world.

Problems of defence, card play, and psychology are barely touched on in this manual and I for one regret their omission; I doubt the ability of any system, however perfect, to paralyse an alert opposition. Nevertheless I freely admit that a system such as Stayman's will give added efficiency to the near expert and enable a keen student to hold his own at the game in almost any company.

Therefore this new book may well initiate an advance in technique such as that heralded by Culbertson's original “Blue Book.”

**Are you finding plenty of good
reading in this first number of
The British Bridge World?**

In the February issue there will be a story and photos of two big matches: the world championship match in Paris, reported by Terence Reese, and the Anglo-American match at Selfridges, reported by Alan Truscott. In addition, there will be the regular features by Alfred Sheinwold, Jean Besse, M. Harrison Gray, and Hubert Phillips.

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You Say . . .

Empty space: for why?

Because this is a new magazine and our correspondents have not warmed up yet.

We invite comment on any aspect of bridge: a new idea, criticism of one of our articles, the iniquity (or wisdom, ha-ha!) of selectors—any subject on which you have something to say. Terence Reese will reply.

Please write—briefly, for choice—to the Editor, British Bridge World, 35 Dover Street, London, W.1.

Across the Green Baize

by GEORGE BAXTER

George Baxter replies in simple terms to questions actually sent to the bridge correspondent of a national paper. Readers of the B.B.W. are welcome to send queries of their own, but these should be on an elementary level. Problems of a more advanced nature are answered in the feature, "Any Questions?"

Question (from Mr. H. Pickering, Turners Hill, Ches-hunt, Herts.).

"How should the bidding go on these hands:—

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

East-West were vulnerable and the opponents did not bid. Playing no convention, our bidding was: West, One No Trump; East, Two Diamonds; all pass. The spade finesse held and a small slam was made."

Answer: Even if you are playing no conventions, you should have some understanding with regard to the strength for an opening One No Trump vulnerable. The usual standard is 16 to 18 points, using the Milton Work count of four for an Ace, three for a King, two for a Queen, and one for a Jack. This hand counts only 15 points and is a little under strength.

It is equally important to know whether a simple take-out into two of a suit is encouraging or discouraging. Different systems have different methods. Since you were playing no conventions, East should have realized that the opener might pass a simple take-out. With 10 points—making a minimum of 25 in the two hands, assuming a 15-point opening—he has enough to suggest a game, especially as he has good distribution.

His right bid was Three Spades. The fact that top cards are held in diamonds but not in spades is beside the point. In searching for a contract, length is more important than strength; moreover, the spades are a major suit. Over Three Spades West will raise to Four Spades, and that will end the bidding.

You say that a small slam was made, but unless South had precisely ♠KJ, there is a trump loser and a club loser.

If West, being rather weak for a vulnerable One No Trump, opens One Club, the bidding may go:—
 1♣, 1♠, 1NT, 2♦; 3♠, 4♠,
 No bid.

Question (from Mrs. Joan Rock, Cranleigh Road, Merton Park, S.W.19). "I wonder if you can tell me how we should have arrived at a game in clubs on the following hand:—

Dealer	NORTH	Both sides
West	♠ —	vulnerable
	♥ A K J 5 4	
	♦ A K Q 3	
	♣ 10 9 5 3	

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

SOUTH
♠ J 10 7 6
♥ 8
♦ J 10 9
♣ Q J 8 7 4

This was the bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	1♠	2♥	2♠
No	No	3♥	Dbl.
3NT	No	No	No

I was South, and of course I was down in Three No Trumps. I thought my partner might have tried another suit."

Answer: Your take-out into Three No Trumps was not really wise, for if the hearts were held against you Three No Trumps was sure to fail. It is generally wrong to rescue in this sort of position.

The main culprit, though, was certainly North. As you say, she might have tried a different suit, but the real mistake came on the first round. With her strong hand North should have doubled for a take-out or, better still, have made a forcing overcall of Two Spades. This would have shown control in spades (probably Ace or void—at most, a singleton) and fine support for any suit that partner could call. The bid used to be regarded as forcing to game, but nowadays it is held to be forcing for two rounds only; both players are pledged to make one further call.

East would probably pass over Two Spades, and South bids Three Clubs. North raises to Four Clubs, which South could pass with a valueless hand. With a fair suit, however, and some strength in distribution, South can readily advance to Five Clubs.

Question (from Mr. A. B. Hodson, of Hagley Road, Halesowen, Nr. Birmingham). "In a team-of-four match East, on

my right, opened One Club, and sitting South I held:—

♠ A J x
♥ x x
♦ J x x
♣ A K Q x x

I overcalled with Two Clubs. West then asked my partner what he understood by my call, and North answered "A game is in the offing if I have got anything." West then passed, North bid Two Diamonds, and all passed. The opponents appeared to be displeased that I had dropped the bidding. Will you please let me know how wrong I was, if at all?"

Answer: Clearly there was a misunderstanding between your partner and yourself. He thought that your bid of Two Clubs, an overcall in the opponent's suit, was equal to a very strong in-

formatory double, whereas you meant it to be a normal overcall, showing a club suit.

All one can say is that it has become quite common nowadays to play Two Clubs over One Club as a natural bid; this is because the One Club opening is very often a short suit. It is a matter on which partners should know one another's methods.

As to your opponents, they might have been disappointed when you passed, but there were no grounds on which they could complain. It was evident that there had been a misunderstanding, but even if that had not been so, any player has the right at any time to pass a forcing bid; that point has been established many times by the Rules and Ethics Committee of the English Bridge Union.

Solutions to Test your Play

DON'T LOOK NOW—unless you have made a conscientious attempt to solve all the problems. You will find them on page 12.

No. 1 NORTH
♠ 6
♥ A K Q 7 6
♦ A 5 3
♣ K J 8 4

♦4 led SOUTH
♠ 7 3
♥ 4 3
♦ Q J 7 6
♣ A Q 6 3 2

South to make Six Clubs.

The diamond finesse is an even chance, whereas the odds are against a 3-3 break in hearts which would allow you to discard three diamonds. Did you work it out like that and take the finesse in diamonds? Then, like the declarer in actual play, you had a blind spot. The right play is to go up with ♦A, draw one trump, and cash two top hearts; ruff a low heart with a club honour and draw trumps. If the clubs are not worse than 3-1, and the hearts are not

worse than 4-2, you can discard two spades on the established hearts and simply give up a diamond.

No. 2 NORTH
 ♠ A 9 7 6 5
 ♥ K 8 4 2
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ 10 6

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

South to make Four Hearts.

If you credit the opponents with any intelligence you must assume from the play that West had ♦K. The best chance is to play for an elimination position. Play a *low* diamond and win with the Ace. Hope that you can drop the trumps in two rounds; then ruff a club, play off ♠AK, and exit with a diamond. West will win and will have to give you a ruff and discard if he does not hold a third spade. It would be a mistake to play ♦Q at the third trick because then *either* opponent could win the next round of diamonds.

No. 3 NORTH
 ♠ Q 5
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 4
 ♣ Q 10 2

♥9 led SOUTH
 ♠ A K 6 3
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A K J 7 5
 ♣ A 6 5

South to make Seven Diamonds.

There would be a simple squeeze if the same hand held the ♠K and the long spades. East, on his overcall, is marked with long hearts and should have ♠K, but is not likely to hold four spades as well. There is a clear case, therefore, for an attempt to transfer the menace. After ruffing the hearts and drawing trumps, lead ♠Q from dummy, forcing East to cover. If West holds ♠J and long spades he will be squeezed when the trumps are played off.

No. 4 NORTH
 ♠ —
 ♥ A Q 10 7 6 2
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A K 7 6 3 2

♦7 led EAST
 ♠ K 10 6 4 2
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ A J 5 4
 ♣ J 5

East to defend against Six No Trumps.

No doubt South holds ♦K and ♠AQ, but to make his contract he must bring in both long suits in dummy. If his holding in hearts happens to be xx, he will need two entries to take the double finesse. If his club holding is such as 10xx or Qx, he will be an entry short, provided that East returns a club at trick 2 and no other suit. The 5 is slightly better than the Jack, but any club scores full marks.

NOVEMBER COMPETITION RESULT

Winner: L. G. HELM, Wallasey, Cheshire.

Runner-up: N. F. CHOULARTON, Stretford, Lancs.

Best Ladies' Score: MRS. G. E. HIGGINSON, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs.

*By arrangement with the English Bridge Union and the
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Spectators: Admission to each Session 2/6

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S. Stayman and partner (U.S.A.)

J. Besse and C. Reichenbach (Switzerland)

K. W. Konstam and L. W. Dodds (Winners, 1955)

J. T. Reese and B. Schapiro (Winners, 1954)

Tournament World

by HAROLD FRANKLIN

News from all quarters will be welcomed for this feature. County Secretaries are asked to send news of their principal events direct to Harold Franklin, 6 Stainburn Mount, Leeds, 17, to arrive not later than the 22nd of the month.

Northern Ireland

A new surge of interest in Northern Irish bridge activity was given added impetus by a good win against a strong Welsh team in the season's first Camrose fixture.

Northern Ireland was represented by Mrs. Atkinson and Gabbey, Goldblatt and Diamond, and Miss Cole and Riley, with Professor Mackinnon as captain, and Wales by Carter and Harris, Rivlin and Reed, and Moses and Davies, captained by the Welsh president, H. Thomas.

Wales took an early lead and had no difficulty in retaining it until the half way stage. At this point Ireland began a recovery which was completed at board 52 when they levelled the scores as a result of this deal:—

West dealer

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 10 7 2
♥ 4 3
♦ K J 8 3 2
♣ Q 10 3

WEST

♠ J 5 4
♥ J 10 8 7 5
♦ 10 9 7 4
♣ 4

EAST

♠ A K Q 9 8
♥ K Q 9 2
♦ None
♣ 9 8 7 5

SOUTH

♠ 6 3
♥ A 6
♦ A Q 6 5
♣ A K J 6 2

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Rivlin</i>	<i>Riley</i>	<i>Reed</i>	<i>Miss Cole</i>
	No	No	1♠
Dbl.	No	2♦	2♥
2NT	3♥	No	No
4♦	No	No	4♥
Dbl.	No	No	No

Eleven tricks were made for a score of 990.

Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Goldblatt	Moses	Gabley	Davies
	No	No	1♠
Dbl.	No	2♦	No
3♦	No	No	No

Eleven tricks were made for a score of 150 and a swing of 1,140.

From this point Ireland kept the lead and eventually won by 15 I.M.P.

—————

Camrose Trophy
England v. Scotland

The warm welcome of which an English team can be assured in Edinburgh had become uncomfortably hot when at the end of 14 boards they found themselves 28 points in arrears. After another 14 boards, however, they had taken the lead and they pressed on to a safe though by no means overwhelming victory by 41 I.M.P.

The early see-saw was balanced on the slam bidding of the two sides:— (*See top of next column*)

Over South's opening of One Club the Scottish West, D. Skinner, bid Two Spades. North, P. Juan, jumped to Five Clubs and East bid Five Spades, which was made for a score of 650.

In the other room J. Sharples doubled the opening bid of One

North dealer

Both sides vulnerable

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

Club and North jumped to Four Clubs. East bid Four Hearts, which West might have passed but converted to Four Spades. Hoping for a club lead, East raised to Six Spades, but unfortunately North had a natural diamond lead and the contract was one down.

The English players had their revenge a little later on the following deal:—

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

J. Tarlo opened One Diamond on the West cards and rebid Three No Trumps over the Three Club response. Rockfelt now bid Four

Diamonds and jumped to Six when his partner cue-bid the ♠A.

In the other room Benjamin opened One Spade and rebid Two No Trumps over Two Clubs. East now bid Three Diamonds which was raised to Four Diamonds and again to Five Diamonds by East. One can sympathize with West who now felt that his controls ought to produce a slam but was rather afraid of his own poor diamonds. Perhaps it was this that prompted him to bid Six Clubs. East passed, although it would seem that West was clearly marked with four-card diamond support; a 4-1 break in clubs made the punishment a severe one.

The subsequent movements of the score board were less violent and although they were generally in England's favour the interest was maintained to the end. The Scottish Camrose débutants, J. McLaren and Dr. R. Forbes, of Edinburgh, played a sound and confident game.

Teams—Scotland: D. Skinner and Mrs. W. Davidson, A. Benjamin and L. Mitchell, Dr. R. Y. Forbes and J. M. McLaren. Non-playing captain, J. O. Hastie.

England: R. and J. Sharples, Dr. M. Rockfelt and J. Tarlo, P. Juan and Mrs. B. Gordon. Non-playing captain, G. L. Butler.

E.B.U. Camrose Trial

The second and last of this year's Camrose trials offered as prizes a place in each of two matches—for the winners, against Northern Ireland, and for the pair with the best cumulative score over the two trials, against Wales. Both issues were open until the very end. Leading positions at the end of the first session were:—

F. North and J. Albuquerque	213
J. Beale and M. Triefus	... 204
B. P. Topley and	
E. L. Silverstone	... 199
C. E. Phillips and	
C. E. Henriques	... 196

In the second session R. E. Clark and E. Leader-Williams scored 65% and moved into second place, two points behind Beale and Triefus who repeated their first session score, and four points in front of Phillips and Henriques who had another good session.

In the final session Beale and Triefus almost duplicated their two other scores to emerge clear winners on both counts, and Topley and Silverstone climbed into second place both on the week-end and on the combined scores. Mrs. Lester and Mrs. Van Rees who were narrowly beaten on the cumulative score had the satisfaction of turning in the best performance to date from a

ladies pair since the inception of this form of trial, while Franks and Blaser, the prominent North-Western pair from whom much had been expected, won the last session easily and lifted themselves from ignominy to respectability.

Leading positions:—

1. J. Beale and M. Triefus... 599
2. B. P. Topley and
E. L. Silverstone ... 586
3. R. E. Clark and
E. Leader-Williams ... 584
4. F. North and
J. Albuquerque ... 567
5. G. H. Broad and
F. Bayden ... 565
6. C. E. Phillips and
C. E. Henriques ... 553

Midland Counties

The Midland Counties Championship for the Dawes Trophy, which is played on a league basis for teams-of-eight, is reaching its closing stages. A novel method of scoring helps to maintain the interest even for the less experienced teams. Three points are at stake in each match and are divided in a manner depending on the margin of the win—to score full points a lead of 3,000 aggre-

gate points is required. The present position of the league is:—

	Matches Played	Points Scored
Nottinghamshire	5	10
Warwickshire	6	9½
Staffordshire	5	9
Yorkshire	5	9
Leicestershire	5	6
Oxfordshire	5	4½
Derbyshire	4	3

Yorkshire, who appear to be most favourably placed, have still to play Oxfordshire and Derbyshire.

North-Western Association

Other counties whose competitions are similarly beset by travel problems may be interested in a new move made by the North-Western Association to solve the difficulty.

Their team-of-four championship, which until this year has been played on a knock-out basis throughout, has this year begun with multi-team preliminary rounds in each area. As a result the entry has been more than tripled and has reached the encouraging total of more than 50 teams.

B. P. Topley sends this interesting hand from a Manchester heat:— (*See opposite column*)

West led a club against Six Spades. Although several declarers made the contract, only two found the safe play of eliminating clubs and cashing the ♠A before throwing West in with the third spade. The set-up for this unusual safety play is about the same as one recently reported by Terence Reese, and since these things usually come in threes it may be your turn tonight.

NORTH

♠ x x x x
♥ A Q J
♦ K x x
♣ A K J

WEST

♠ Q J x
♥ K x x
♦ x x x
♣ x x x x

EAST

♠ None
♥ 10 9 x x x x
♦ Q x x x
♣ x x x

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 x x x
♥ x
♦ A J 10
♣ Q 10 x

Answers to November Competition

by JACK MARX

I.M.P. scoring for teams-of-four is to be assumed for all problems.

Problem No. 1 (24 points)

West's hand is:—

♠A10, ♥K9742, ♦A6, ♣A964

As dealer at game all he opens One Heart. North-South do not bid. What should be West's rebid when East responds: (a) One Spade; (b) Two Clubs; (c) Two Diamonds; (d) Three Diamonds?

Answers:

- (a) Two Clubs, 6; One No Trump, 4.
(b) Two No Trumps, 6; Three Clubs, 4;
Three No Trumps, 1; Four Clubs, 1.

- (c) Two No Trumps, 6; Two Hearts, 2;
Three Diamonds, 1.
(d) Three Hearts, 6; Three No Trumps,
4; Four Clubs, 2; Four Diamonds, 1.

In two respects West's hand is of somewhat indeterminate character. Its honour strength amounts to no more than 15 points, but these are of the very best type and raise it above the common ruck of minimum openings. With no singleton it cannot be said to be unbalanced, yet it also has some shape that in some conditions it would be unwise to leave unexploited.

In (a) East's response promises so little that this last consideration takes

precedence, even though the level is thereby raised.

In (b) East promises more and West, whose point count alone is just enough for the rebid in no trumps, apart from the club fit that reinforces it, can afford to reject the rather vague single raise for a minor in favour of more specifically encouraging action.

In (c) the same rebid must be made *faute de mieux*. Any feasible alternative is preferable to the rebid of such a shaky major suit as West's, who in a non-forcing situation may be left to play there by a partner totally lacking support but fearful of a bad misfit.

The situation in (d) is forcing and the objection on these grounds to rebidding the major is no longer valid; and partner, having announced himself as in command, is unlikely to be reduced now to raising the hearts on some doubleton holding. This is just the sort of hand where the No Trump rebid obstructs the way to a slam, for the assurance of some length in hearts may be vital for a partner lacking Aces.

Problem No. 2 (14 points)

West's hand is:—

♠Q854, ♥K1063, ♦532, ♣K4

At the score North-South game East as dealer opens One Heart. North-South do not bid. West responds Two Hearts. What should West say next when East rebids to: (a) Two Spades; (b) Three Diamonds?

Answers:—

- (a) Four Hearts, 7; Three Spades, 5;
Four Spades, 1.
(b) Four Hearts, 7; Three Hearts, 4.
West's single raise was not in the

slightest degree shaded and in (a), now that due weight can be given to the ♠Q, he has no excuse for not committing himself to game. East's spades, mentioned as a "trial" bid with hearts agreed, may not actually exist as a four-card suit, though they usually will. It is not therefore sound to raise to Four Spades. But it seems difficult to imagine a case where an obviously strong East, having received the very assurance he was apparently seeking, will now tamely pass. It also seems likely in this case that a four-four distribution trump suit will be a lesser advantage than one of more certain solidity.

In (b) the diamond holding is clearly not what East is seeking, but the hand remains almost a maximum single raise.

Problem No. 3 (10 points)

These hands were held by West and East at the score North-South game:—

♠K4, ♥A, ♦AQ874, ♣J9832

♠75, ♥Q9764, ♦KJ32, ♣KQ

South was the dealer and the auction proceeded:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♦	No	2♥
No	3♣	No	3♦
No	No	No	

Name the call or calls responsible for the game being missed. If in your opinion there is more than one, list them in order of demerit. Add, in brackets, after each such call what you consider to be the best alternative.

Answer:—

- Three Diamonds (Four Diamonds)
Two Hearts (Three Diamonds)
One can perhaps sympathize with East in hoping that West might after all

have support for hearts, when a minor suit game seems remote. Nevertheless, it is not as a rule wise to bid a suit of such poor quality and possibly be left to play there, when partner's omission to double suggests a distinct lack of interest in it. But his second bid is far more censurable, since as mere preference it acts as a damper just at the moment when the disclosure of the club fit has brightened the outlook. Four Diamonds at this point is not forcing on West, who is unlikely to proceed further if he has, as East feared and seemed to take for granted, three losers in the majors.

Problem No. 4 (14 points)

West's hand is:—

♠A102, ♥A542, ♦A10, ♣K1064

West deals at game to East-West and the bidding proceeds:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	1♣	No	1♦
1♣	1NT	2♣	

What should West say next when East makes a further bid of: (a) Three Clubs; (b) Three Diamonds; South passing?

Answers:—

- (a) Three Hearts, 7; Four Clubs, 4; No Bid, 3.
 (b) Three Hearts, 7; Three Spades, 5; No Bid, 4; Four Diamonds, 2.

Intrusive opponents can be a source both of confusion and guidance. West feels bound to discount some of the force behind East's renewed efforts at the three level as having been dictated at least in part by the need, more than ever urgent at any form of match point scoring, to compete for the part-score. But he has also learned that a No

Trump game can be little better than a remote chance. Especially is this so in (a), where an uninterrupted run of eight tricks after taking the ♠A seems out of the question. But here he can see some prospect of a club game if East has sufficient shape to back his own top cards.

In (b), where he lacks normal support for the one suit bid by East, there is perhaps less hope. But East, known to be short in spades and unable to support clubs, is not so very unlikely to hold four hearts.

Problem No. 5 (14 points)

West's hand is:—

♠Q108, ♥K842, ♦J982, ♣K2

At the score East-West game North as dealer passes and East opens One Diamond. What should West say when South: (a) doubles; (b) bids One No Trump?

Answers:—

- (a) One No Trump, 7; Redouble, 4; No Bid, 4; One Heart, 2.
 (b) Double, 7.

The redouble is a time-wasting bid that should be used far more sparingly than it habitually is. There seems little purpose in using it for no better reason than to boast of a few miscellaneous points, giving no indication of where they are located or how well backed by distributional features. This is not a hand where West can expect any worthwhile penalty from a low-level suit contract; he has too many of his partner's diamonds. On the other hand, immediate support for diamonds will sound like a pre-emptive call for which there is no special need. One No Trump

tells a plain story of a few modest well-balanced high-card values and can be followed if necessary by a competing bid in diamonds.

In (b) the diamond length is anything but a disadvantage in an attempt to punish a low-level no trump contract.

Problem No. 6 (14 points)

West's hand is:—

♠K6, ♥7, ♦A1084, ♣AJ10643

As dealer at game all he opens One Club. North-South do not bid. East responds One Diamond and West raises to Two Diamonds. What should West say next when East rebids to:

(a) Two Hearts; (b) Three Diamonds?

Answers:

(a) Three Clubs, 7; Four Diamonds, 5; Two Spades, 5; Four Clubs, 4; Two No Trumps, 2; Five Diamonds, 2.

(b) No Bid, 7; Three Spades, 5; Four Clubs, 4; Five Diamonds, 4.

On playing trick values West has an extremely good raise to Two Diamonds. When East, in (a), makes a constructive rebid, the one call that cannot be admitted is a sign-off of Three Diamonds. Since the destination of the hand is uncertain, West should look for a naturally descriptive bid, and Four Clubs is best.

In (b) partner's Three Diamonds should be read as a defensive call, for if he had hopes of game East would make a more constructive bid. Game is just possible, nevertheless, and if West does continue, Three Spades gives partner the best chance to assess the worth of his hand. Five Diamonds, though a gamble, is more sensible than

Four Diamonds, which East will surely have to pass.

Problem No. 7 (10 points)

The hands of West and East are:—

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

At game all West has become declarer at a contract of Six Spades, North-South not having entered the auction. North leads ♣Q. How should West plan the play?

Answer:—

By elimination play West can make sure of losing not more than one diamond, except where South has all three missing honours. The play goes: ♣AK, throwing two diamonds from West; ♥A and ruff; ♠K; heart ruff; ♠A. Now a small diamond from East is ducked into the North hand if South plays low. If South plays Jack or Ten, West wins with the Ace and loses only when South has KJ10.

West can do even better with the aid of psychology. After eliminating hearts and drawing trumps, he contrives to be in his own hand, not in dummy. He then leads a small diamond away from the Ace and just covers whatever North plays; any diamond that South now leads, bar the King, is run up to dummy. This play must succeed unless North on the first round of diamonds has had the nerve to play low unblinkingly from a doubleton King.

*For result of November Competition
see Page 32.*

January Competition

Set by JACK MARX

Part 1 of a three months' contest. The British Bridge World offers the following prizes for the best score in the January, February, and March competitions combined:—

First Prize

Free stay for two persons, with full pension, at a first-class hotel during the week of the Juan-Les-Pins Bridge Festival, May 5-12th, 1956.

Second Prize: Five Guineas.

Please read these rules carefully. No competitor may send in more than one entry each month. A competition coupon is not required, but only annual subscribers to the B.B.W. (or current subscribers to the C.B.J.) are eligible for prizes.

Answers should be sent direct to J. C. H. Marx, Competition Editor, B.B.W., 25 Palace Gardens Terrace, London, W.8, postmarked not later than February 1st, 1956. Some latitude will be granted to overseas competitors. Solutions and leading scores will be published in the February issue.

1. South's hand is:—

♠96 ♥64 ♦AQ862 ♣KQ76

Rubber bridge. Dealer East.
Love all.

The bidding:—

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

What should be South's next call?

2. South's hand is:—

♠K6 ♥KQ987 ♦A42 ♣1053

Team-of-four match, aggregate scoring. Dealer North. Game all.

The bidding:—

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

What should be South's next call?

3. South's hand is:—

♠Q108 ♥AJ ♦AQ87 ♣K954

Team-of-four match, I.M.P. scoring. Dealer West. East-West Game. The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♥	No	2♥
Dbl.	3♥	3♠	No

What should be South's next call?

4. South's hand is:—

♠AJ8 ♥Void ♦J986 ♣AKQ1095

Match-pointed pairs. Dealer South. Game all. The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	1♥	1♠	No

What should be South's next call?

5. South's hand is:—

♠KQ1053 ♥KQ7 ♦A4 ♣643

Rubber bridge. Dealer South. Game all. The bidding:—

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ No 2♥ No

3♥ No 3♠ No

What should be South's next call?

6. South's hand is:—

♠5 ♥AKQ10 ♦10532 ♣KQ64

Rubber bridge. Dealer South. Game all, North-South 40. The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	No	2♣	No
3♣	No	3♦	No

What should be South's next call?

7. South's hand is:—

♠109854 ♥A4 ♦K4 ♣J1064

Match-pointed pairs. Dealer North. Game all. The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♣	No
1♠	No	3♦	No
4♣	No	7♦	No

4♥ No 4♠ No

What should be South's next call?

JUAN-LES-PINS BRIDGE FESTIVAL

May 5th - 12th 1956

May 5th to 9th, Open Pairs Championship, with two preliminary sessions and three sections in the final, with prizes for all grades.

May 10th, a free day with an exhibition bidding match between pairs representing various countries.

May 11th and 12th, Open Teams-of-Four.

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For information and Hotel reservations, write to the Syndicat d'Initiative, Juan-Les-Pins, Antibes.

E.B.U. Results

Gold Cup 1955-1956

W. H. Hinton (Nottingham) beat R. Roncoli (Scarborough) by 53 I.M.P.
G. C. H. Fox (London) beat Mrs. A. L. Fleming (London) by 53 I.M.P.
B. P. Topley (Lancs. & Yorks.) beat J. Brown (Grimsby) by 59 I.M.P.
B.B.L. beat Dr. S. Lee (London) by 30 I.M.P.
J. C. J. Tatham (London) beat Miss E. Younghughes (Sussex) by 3 I.M.P.
Mrs. R. Markus (B.B.L.) beat G. Burrows (Essex) by 26 I.M.P.
M. Esner (Manchester) beat W. G. Rose (Nottingham) by 32 I.M.P.
G. A. Durran (Herts.) beat Dr. S. Gee (Kent) by 21 I.M.P.

Crockford's Cup 1955-1956

C. L. Haddon (Notts.) beat J. Lazarus (Manchester) by 16 I.M.P.
R. Preston (London) beat Mrs. Gardener (B.B.L.) by 1 I.M.P.
Mrs. A. L. Fleming (London) beat C. E. Lester (London) by 10 I.M.P.
G. R. Dawes (Birmingham) w.o. Mrs. Barnes (Leeds) Scr.
G. Mathieson (London) beat G. H. Hammond (Kent) by 19 I.M.P.
Mrs. Moss (London) beat Mrs. Markus (B.B.L.) by 2 I.M.P.
E. White (Burton-on-Trent) beat M. Esner (Manchester) by 2 I.M.P.
C. E. Phillips (Cheshire) beat R. H. Chope (Sheffield) by 14 I.M.P.
Dr. S. Lee (London) beat Dr. S. Gee (Kent) by 67 I.M.P.
G. K. Fenn Smith (Bournemouth) beat Miss P. M. Nye (London) by 15 I.M.P.

Hubert Phillips Bowl 1955-1956

J. Brown (Grimsby) beat K. M. H. Neale (Nottingham) by 860 pts.
G. C. H. Fox (London) beat Miss E. Younghughes (Sussex) by 670 pts.
H. Abrahams (London) beat Mrs. V. Cooper (London) by 870 pts.
W. H. Hinton (Nottingham) beat Mrs. M. Cole (Leicester) by 3,970 pts.
Mrs. R. Markus (London) beat Mrs. A. L. Fleming (London) by 4,300 pts.
Mrs. B. Tarlo (London) beat G. F. Mathieson (London) by 200 pts.
L. D. Levy (London) beat Mrs. N. Kahn (London) by 760 pts.
A. L. Della Porta (London) beat J. C. J. Tatham (London) by 3,090 pts.
M. A. Porter (Birmingham) beat R. H. Chope (Sheffield) by 3,190 pts.
Mrs. M. Lester (London) beat R. J. Kerr (London) by 3,390 pts.
Mrs. B. Gordon (London) beat Miss D. R. Shanahan (London) by 650 pts.

Entries may still be accepted for the Whitelaw Cup and for the Field Cup and should be sent NOW to Geoffrey Fell, Craven Lead Works, Skipton, Yorkshire.

All Areas are requested to run heats before January 31st for the National Pairs.

L.C.C.B.A. RESULTS

Melville Smith Trophy

First round winners: L. Tarlo (B.B.L. team), A. Elliott, S. Abrahams, Mrs. R. Markus, G. N. Breskal, G. F. Mathieson.

Sydney Woodward Cup

First round winners: F. M. Emmet, L. Morawetz, H. Greenberg, E. Schon, I. P. Gibb, J. Sindell, R. McNair Jones, Miss Nye, K. A. Bradshaw.

London League

Leading teams after three rounds: Division I, London Club "A," London International B.C. Division II, London Club "B," Insurance Institute "A." Division III, Mayfair Bridge Studio "B," Midland Bank "C." Division IV, Imperial College, St. Bride's Institute. Division V, Mayfair Bridge Studio "E," Mayfair Bridge Studio "D."

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Diary of Events

1956

Jan.	16-19	GT. BRITAIN v. U.S.A.	London
Jan.	21-22	ENGLAND v. N. IRELAND	Sheffield
Jan.	27-29	CROYDON CONGRESS	...	...	...	Croydon
Feb.	3-5	WHITELAW CUP	...	...	...	London
Feb.	11-12	WADDINGTON CUP FOR MASTERS PAIRS	...	...	...	London
Feb.	18-19	ENGLAND v. WALES...	...	...	...	Away
Feb.	24-25	DAILY TELEGRAPH CUP	...	...	...	London
March	2-4	E.B.U. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Harrogate
March	10-11	RICHARD LEDERER MEMORIAL CUP	...	...	...	London
March	17-18	FIELD TROPHY	...	...	...	London
March	24-25	PORTLAND CLUB CUP	...	...	...	London
April	7-8	NATIONAL PAIRS AREA FINALS	...	...	...	{ Harrogate Droitwich London
April	13-16	DEVON C.B.A. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Torquay
April	20-22	LONDON CONGRESS	...	...	...	London
April	26-29	GOLD CUP FINAL ROUNDS	...	...	...	Blackpool
April	28-29	LADIES' INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING	...	...	...	{ Harrogate Stratford London
May	5-6	CROCKFORD'S CUP	...	...	...	London
May	12-13	MIDDLESEX CONGRESS	...	...	...	London
May	26-27	NATIONAL PAIRS FINAL	...	...	...	Midlands
June	2-3	PACHABO CUP	...	...	...	Buxton
June	9-10	LADIES' INDIVIDUAL FINAL...	...	...	...	London
June	15-17	Y.C.B.A. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Scarborough

Full particulars from:

Hon. Sec.—HUGH COLLINS

English Bridge Union, 152a Fulham Palace Road, London, W.6

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