

THE BRIDGE PLAYER'S

Bedside Book



TONY FORRESTER



More than 50 contributors, including

Eddie Kantar

Ron Klinger

Phillip Alder

Albert Dormer

Alfred Sheinwold

Master Point Press on the Internet

[*www.masterpointpress.com*](http://www.masterpointpress.com)

Our main site, with information about our books and software, reviews and more.

[*www.masteringbridge.com*](http://www.masteringbridge.com)

Our site for bridge teachers and students – free downloadable support material for our books, helpful articles, forums and more.

[*www.ebooksbridge.com*](http://www.ebooksbridge.com)

Purchase downloadable electronic versions of MPP books.

[*www.bridgeblogging.com*](http://www.bridgeblogging.com)

Read and comment on regular articles from MPP authors and other bridge notables.

**Master Point Press
331 Douglas Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M5M 1H2**

(416) 781-0351

Websites: <http://www.masterpointpress.com>
<http://www.masteringbridge.com>
<http://www.ebooksbridge.com>
<http://www.bridgeblogging.com>

Email: info@masterpointpress.com

Distributed in the U.S.A. by Barricade Books
150 Fifth Avenue, Suite 700
New York, NY 10011
(800) 59-BOOKS

The Bridge Player's Bedside Book

First Published in Great Britain by Colt Books in 1997

This edition published by Master Point Press 1998

Selection and Foreword copyright © Tony Forester 1997

Volume copyright © Colt Books Ltd. 1997

The acknowledgements on page vii constitute an extension of this copyright page.

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

The bridge player's bedside book

ISBN 978-1-55494-064-6

1. Contract bridge. I. Forrester, Tony, 1953-

GV1282.3.B74 1998

795.41'5

C98-930834-0

All rights reserved.

Without limiting the rights under copyright above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in Canada

98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

TONY FORRESTER

THE BRIDGE PLAYER'S

Bedside Book

MASTER POINT PRESS

Toronto

THE BRIDGE PLAYER'S
Bedside Book



“What on earth do you mean, it’s only a game?”

CONTENTS

The Great Rubber Bridge Tournament at Bains-sur-Mer	1
After the Bridge Party	13
A Helping Hand	14
The Impossible Takes a Little Longer	29
The Anxious Bidder	32
Bidding Quiz	33
Tony Forrester's Hand	37
Salute to the Blue Team	39
Back to the Future	43
How to Describe Your Hand	45
The 'Good Partner' Test	46
A Sleeping Partner	50
Defensive Signaling — Tips and Quiz	51
The Big Peep	62
Skulduggery	73
The Elevator	74
A Long Way to Go	76
Omar Sharif's Bridge Circus vs. Crockford's Club	77
Bridge With Your Spouse	80
Egdirb	82
Cheats Sometimes Prosper	83
Last Board	85
Bob Hamman's Hand	94
Watch Their Discards	96
Kings, Queens and Playing Cards	104
A Dramatic Recovery	110

Enterprising Bridge	120
The Bennett Saga, or Diminished Responsibility	129
A Lot to Learn, My Son	134
The Case of the Knotted Cravat	135
The Lawyer's Advice	150
The (Dallas) Aces	151
Eddie Kantar's Hand	155
Marks Out of Ten	157
When Ron Met Bob...	158
Bridge Trivia Quiz	159
The Early Days	164
Hand Signals	173
Practical Bidding Advice	174
The Duke of Cumberland's Hand	180
Vocal Signals	181
When Britain Won the World Championship	182
Heard in the Club	190
Naturals vs. Scientists	191
Diary of a Palooka	201
Battle of the Systems	203
W.D. & H.O. Wills British Team vs. The Rest of the World	208
At a Nearby Table	211
Where Did it Go Wrong?	212
The Masters at Play	218
Kamikaze Bridge	221
Opening Leads Quiz	226
A Good Lead	232
The Salvation of Peter Dodds	233
Useful Hints for Useless Players	241

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE author and publishers would like to express their thanks to the following for use of previously published material that appears in this book: Dr. Tony Sowter for all the articles, stories and pictures that previously appeared in *International Popular Bridge Monthly*; the editorial board of *English Bridge* for “The Masters at Play” by Giorgio Belladonna and Howard Schenken, “The Pick of the Tournaments; W.D. & H.O. Wills British Team vs. The Rest of the World (1966)”, “Salute to the Blue Team”, and “Defensive Signalling” by Brian Senior; the editor of *Bridge Magazine* for “Tony Forrester’s Hand”, “The Duke of Cumberland’s Hand”, “A Dramatic Recovery (1982 Gold Cup)”, “The Bennett Saga” and “Kings, Queens and Playing Cards” to Faber and Faber Ltd. for the extract from *Bridge Unlimited* by Victor Mollo; the executors of the estate of the late Cyril Kenneth Bird for permission to use the illustrations by Fougasse on pp i, 4, 17, 22, 38, 45, 60, 84, 97, 117, 136, 181, 215, and 220.

Every effort has been made to contact copyright holders of material contained in this book and the publishers apologise for any they have been unable to reach.

In addition, the publishers would like to thank the following for their help in the preparation and production of this book: John Turner, Fingertips Secretarial Services and Dr. Tony Sowter of Apsbridge Services Ltd., Lin Treadwell, and most particularly to Diana Forrester for all her help.

This book is dedicated
to
Ted, Pat, and “JF”
My most loyal supporters

FOREWORD

IT was time to put together a bridge book which is fun to read. Over the years, so few publications could be described as that.

I searched high and low to find those articles which had appealed to me when I read them. The outstanding were memorable, because well-written and amusing bridge anecdotes are rare.

Using my wife, Diana, as a guinea pig — she plays very little bridge as such but does know a good story when she sees one — I sifted through thirty years of highly variable material.

The result? In my view the best collection of entertaining and informative one-off pieces ever written. Not just fictional, but also many of the key hands and decisions that have shaped bridge history.

For example, when did the Aces finally take the World Championship away from the Italians, and how did they do it? Or who were the greatest teams ever put together?

Plus, for your own game, many tips and quizzes that will sharpen your edge.

In short, a jolly good read!

Have fun...

Tony

THE GREAT RUBBER BRIDGE TOURNAMENT AT BAINS-SUR-MER

*A further excerpt from the hitherto unpublished memoirs
of the late Dr. John H. Watson, M.D.*

FROM time to time the mood comes upon me to browse through the notes I have kept of the many cases in which my friend Sherlock Holmes has been concerned. I have laid the facts of a few of these cases before the public who have been kind enough to show appreciation of my humble attempts to record the achievements of my friend; but in other cases the public interest, or the necessity to avoid embarrassment to eminent personages, has prevented the publication of the facts.

It is an episode of this kind which I now beg leave to relate. The passage of time has dulled the passions then aroused, and I therefore feel that, in order to illuminate yet another facet of my friend's character, the story of the strange occurrence at Bains-sur-Mer should now be told.

It was in the days when Holmes and I shared a set of rooms in Baker Street. I had for a while been sorely perturbed by my friend's manner: lackadaisical and enervated, he appeared to exhibit a marked reaction to the strenuous efforts which had gone into the solving of the Sylvius affair and certain other difficult cases.

However, my intimate knowledge of Holmes' curious metabolism told me that what his mighty intellect required to refresh it was not rest but still greater exertion, for Holmes' mind, I knew, deteriorated when allowed to lie fallow. I also suspected a contributory cause of Holmes' malaise: his arch-enemy, Professor Moriarty, against whose cunning Holmes was wont to exercise his wits, had for some time been missing from his usual haunts.

On that fresh spring morning as I lingered over Mrs. Hudson's excellent toast and marmalade, I observed Holmes, in his favorite armchair, leafing irritably through his copy of *The*

Times. Suddenly his gaze became alert and his hawk-like nose became more deeply immersed in the pages. After a moment or two he laid down the newspaper and gazed fixedly into space. Then, suddenly leaping to his feet, he cried with all his old enthusiasm: "Come Watson, how do you fancy a trip to the Continent? I have always had a desire to sample the delights of Bains-sur-Mer. The boat train leaves Victoria Station in half-an-hour. Have Mrs. Hudson pack my valise and summon a cab!"

Accustomed as I was to Holmes' volatile changes of mood, I nevertheless could not account for this sudden whim. Rather than travel abroad Holmes, as a rule, preferred to remain at home like a spider at the center of its web. Indeed, he had on more than one occasion remarked scornfully on the modern tendency to stage bridge tournaments at places where the exotic nature of the surroundings could, in his view, serve only to distract players from the noble game itself.

However, I signified my agreement, thinking it essential for Holmes to have a medical adviser close at hand. While he retired to prepare for the journey, I picked up the discarded page of *The Times* from where Holmes had carelessly dropped it, hoping to find the item of intelligence which had caused so abrupt a change in his plans. The page contained numerous small items of foreign news and, tucked away at the foot of a column, I read the following:

"From our Riviera correspondent: Centennial celebrations are taking place at the municipality of Bains-sur-Mer. These include a grand Rubber Bridge Tournament which is to be conducted according to the newly-popular 'Chicago' method of scoring. A cash prize derived from the profits of the casino, rumored to be of enormous size, is to be awarded to the winners."

Our journey to the salubrious resort of Bains-sur-Mer passed without incident, Holmes remaining characteristically indifferent to the charms alike of the countryside and of several of our fair fellow-travellers.

On arrival at the principal hotel of the town, where a telegram dispatched before our departure had procured us accommodation, Holmes showed unusual eagerness to sign the register, a

task which he usually deputed to me. Under cover of entering our own particulars, he carefully scrutinized the signatures of guests who had already arrived. A slight smile for a moment illuminated his austere features.

As we were about to go up to our rooms I became aware of a heavily bearded man clad in a long, tightly-buttoned black coat watching us closely, almost concealed by the fronds of one of the large potted palms with which the vestibule was lavishly provided. Holmes had apparently failed to notice this stranger and, not wishing to disturb his peace of mind, I remained silent as we ascended to our chambers. In due time we proceeded to the ball-room of the hotel, where the tournament was about to begin.

The scene as we entered was one of extreme splendor. Six great crystal chandeliers hung from a magnificently ornamented ceiling, illuminating the rich folds of crimson velvet curtain trimmed with gold tassels, which contrasted sharply with the stark simplicity of the range of green baize covered tables filling the great hall. Many people had already assembled and a low murmur of polite conversation could be heard. Suddenly from a group nearby there rang a peal of silvery feminine laughter. All eyes turned towards the origin of that delightful sound and I beheld the same tall, bearded stranger whom I had previously seen, bowing low over the hand of a most beautiful young woman.

Holmes, to my consternation, seemed to stagger as he observed this pleasing scene. I hastily assisted him to a seat in an alcove, a ministration which appeared to cause him some annoyance.

"I deduce, Watson," he said, "that you have failed to penetrate the somewhat amateurish disguise of our hirsute friend whom we saw earlier in the foyer. He is, of course, Professor Moriarty, whose presence here I foresaw when I read of the magnificent cash prize being offered. What I did not anticipate was that he would succeed in embroiling, as an unwitting partner in his nefarious scheme, a member of the reigning house of a nearby Principality, Princess..." Here Holmes mentioned a name which even now I am not at liberty to divulge.

"It is now out of the question openly to expose Moriarty, as I had previously intended. The ensuing scandal would rock

Europe. I must devise a more subtle means of preventing him from attaining his ends.”

Nevertheless, as the tournament got under way, Moriarty soon took the lead, the rules of the competition being ideally suited to the rascally methods employed by that vile scourge on Society. With Chicago scoring, there was always one deal in four in which Moriarty, as dealer, could exert his devilish skill in manipulating the pack and on these occasions he would almost invariably bid and successfully make a slam. However, Holmes and I were also in excellent form, and at the end of the first day were in second place.

Matters proceeded in much the same fashion on the second and final day of the tournament. Holmes and I were due to meet Moriarty and the Princess in the very last chukker and it seemed that everything would depend on the encounter. And so it proved, for as we sat down to play the fateful deals it was announced that Moriarty, with a score of 33,010, and ourselves with 30,220 were far ahead of the other competitors.

With an affectation of gallantry which Holmes and I knew to be insincere, Moriarty dealt the first hand on behalf of his partner. Holmes and I exchanged bitter glances as we listened to the tell-tale clicking of the cards which, as Holmes had often explained to me, betrayed that the dealer was manipulating the deck. When I picked up my cards, however, my fingers trembled as I gazed upon the following hand and realized that the infamous Professor had committed one of his rare blunders:



“You do realize it’s the Duchess you’re doubling?”

♠ AKQJ10
 ♥ AKQJ109
 ♦ —
 ♣ AK

East	South	West	North
<i>Princess</i>	<i>Holmes</i>	<i>Moriarty</i>	<i>Watson</i>
pass	pass	pass	2♥
pass	2NT	3♦	3♠
pass	4♥	pass	6♥
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

I confess that I was quite bewildered by Moriarty's double of six hearts. A less cautious player, I felt certain, would have bid a grand slam on my cards. My partner had shown preference for hearts, and thus could not be void of the suit. At worst the opening lead might be ruffed, but even then it seemed utterly improbable that six hearts would be defeated. Yet, knowing Moriarty so well, I refrained from redoubling.

It was well that I did, for this was the full deal.

Love All. Dealer East.

		<i>Watson</i>	
		♠ AKQJ10	
		♥ AKQJ109	
		♦ —	
		♣ AK	
<i>Moriarty</i>			<i>Princess</i>
♠ —			♠ 9865432
♥ 876432			♥ —
♦ AKQJ1054			♦ 7
♣ —			♣ J9863
		<i>Holmes</i>	
		♠ 7	
		♥ 5	
		♦ 98632	
		♣ Q107542	

A diamond was led and I was forced to ruff. A round of trumps revealed the appalling division of that suit and I found I was doomed to go down no fewer than six tricks on the hand, as I had lost control and could only make my trump tricks. I felt utterly dejected, for I now realized that I had fallen into Moriarty's trap precisely as he had intended.

As we entered 1,100* upon the scoreboard, putting Moriarty 3,890 points ahead, the infamous Professor smiled mockingly. "Well, Mr. Holmes, I think that even your skills will this time be insufficient to snatch the prize from my grasp."

"We shall see," replied Holmes laconically, at the same time, to my surprise, placing a somewhat vulgar chromium cigarette case on the table in place of his usual pipe. "I hope, Madam, you will permit me to smoke," he said courteously to the Princess. Upon receiving a gracious smile of assent, Holmes lit up and puffed with apparent relish at one of the execrable local brands of cigarette.

I have had the good fortune to stand at Holmes' side through many a dark hour but never have I admired that extraordinary man more fervently than on this occasion. Refusing even now to admit defeat, and forbearing to offer the smallest criticism of my foolishness on the previous deal, he summoned up his last reserves of nervous energy and stared fixedly at the table as he dealt the second hand:

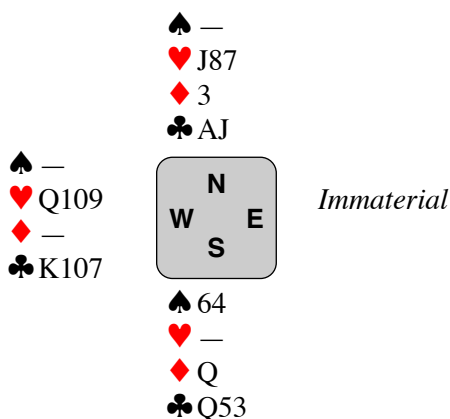
North/South Game. Dealer South.

	♠ K85	
	♥ J8732	
	♦ AJ3	
	♣ AJ	
♠ —		♠ 10973
♥ KQ109		♥ 654
♦ K108		♦ 9754
♣ K107642		♣ 98
	♠ AQJ642	
	♥ A	
	♦ Q62	
	♣ Q53	

* In modern scoring this would be 1,400.

South	West	North	East
<i>Holmes</i>	<i>Moriarty</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>Princess</i>
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
3♠	pass	4NT	pass
5♥	pass	5NT	pass
6♣	pass	6♠	pass
7♠	all pass		

Against Holmes' ambitious contract of seven spades, the king of hearts was led. It appeared at first that declarer could make no more than eleven tricks, even with the aid of successful finesses in both clubs and diamonds. However, on winning the first trick Holmes immediately played three rounds of trumps, Moriarty discarding three clubs. A fourth trump then squeezed Moriarty in three suits. After some thought he discarded a diamond, whereupon Holmes finessed the jack of diamonds and cashed the ace, producing this position:



The three of diamonds was led from dummy and this time Moriarty let go a heart. Holmes promptly returned a trump, bringing forth another heart discard, and it was now a simple matter to finesse the jack of clubs, ruff a heart — establishing the jack — and claim the contract.

“Bravo,” I cried, as our fair opponent graciously added her own congratulations. Moriarty, for his part, scowled viciously and proceeded to deal the next hand. It came as no surprise when he bid swiftly to a slam despite an attempt by Holmes to obstruct the exchanges with a psychic overcall:

East/West Game. Dealer West.

<i>Watson</i>					
♠ —					
♥ J987632					
♦ 3					
♣ J6532					
<i>Moriarty</i>	<div><div>N</div><div>W E</div><div>S</div></div>		<i>Princess</i>		
♠ AQJ754			♠ 963		
♥ AKQ			♥ 1054		
♦ A			♦ QJ108		
♣ 1097			♣ AKQ		
<i>Holmes</i>					
♠ K1082					
♥ —					
♦ K976542					
♣ 84					
West	North	East	South		
<i>Moriarty</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>Princess</i>	<i>Holmes</i>		
1 ♠	pass	2 ♣	2 ♥ (!)		
3 ♥	dbl	3 ♠	pass		
6 ♠	all pass				

It was I to lead against six spades. In view of the nature of my own hand it was not to be expected that Holmes could take many defensive tricks in hearts, but I have found over the years that it is advantageous to lead Holmes’ suit and I did so here. What followed was quite extraordinary: Holmes showed out of the suit and, instead of ruffing, discarded a club! Moriarty won, entered dummy with a club, took a successful finesse in

trumps, and tried to re-enter dummy with a second club. Holmes ruffed and exited with a diamond. As declarer was unable to repeat the trump finesse, he could not avoid letting Holmes make a trick with the king of trumps for down one.

“Gad, Holmes,” I remarked with some asperity. “You gave me a fright when you allowed your concentration to falter and failed to ruff the opening heart lead. Fortunately, declarer was unable to draw trumps and thus you came to your two trump tricks despite your somewhat uncharacteristic lapse.”

“My dear fellow,” replied Holmes, “I see that you have overlooked the advantage of my method of defending the hand. Had I ruffed the opening heart lead, as you suggest, Moriarty would assuredly have made the contract. My trump holding would have been reduced to king to three and I would still have had two clubs in my hand. It would therefore have been a simple matter for declarer to enter dummy twice in clubs and pick up my remaining trumps. No, my dear Watson, you may take it from me that the heart opening lead, combined with the club discard, is the only way to beat the slam. Hence the necessity for my somewhat irregular overcall of two hearts. I knew that I could rely on you to lead my ‘suit’, Watson, and you did not fail me.” The Princess was kind enough to congratulate us on our joint endeavours while Moriarty, for his part, restrained himself with obvious difficulty.

“And now, Watson,” said my partner, “pray relax while I deal the last hand on your behalf.” Oblivious to my protestation that such a procedure was entirely unnecessary, he turned to the Princess and explained that I was afflicted with an old war wound, acquired on the North-Western frontier of India.

By now our table was surrounded by a throng of spectators and the tension became almost unbearable as Holmes, staring fixedly at the table as if to summon the last ounce of concentration, meted out these cards with opponents 1,580 points ahead of us:

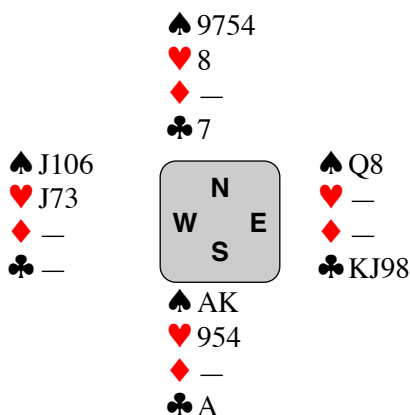
Game All. Dealer North.

	<i>Watson</i> ♠ 9754 ♥ A86 ♦ A1032 ♣ 74	
<i>Moriarty</i> ♠ J1063 ♥ QJ1073 ♦ J4 ♣ 106	<div><div>N</div><div>W E</div><div>S</div></div>	<i>Princess</i> ♠ Q8 ♥ — ♦ 9765 ♣ KJ98532
	<i>Holmes</i> ♠ AK2 ♥ K9542 ♦ KQ8 ♣ AQ	

North	East	South	West
<i>Watson</i>	<i>Princess</i>	<i>Holmes</i>	<i>Moriarty</i>
pass	pass	3NT	pass
4NT	pass	6NT	all pass

Against six no-trumps Moriarty led the queen of hearts with a vindictive sneer. “I fancy that my partner and I may congratulate ourselves,” he remarked, “for even if this contract is made, which is extremely unlikely, we shall win the tournament by a margin of 140 points.”

But Holmes was apparently still unwilling to concede defeat. He won Moriarty’s queen of hearts with the king and played off four rounds of diamonds, discarding a spade from his hand as Moriarty threw a club and a spade. Then he successfully finessed the queen of clubs. A low heart from the closed hand came next and Moriarty was forced to play the ten to prevent dummy’s eight from winning the trick. This was the position with dummy on lead:



Holmes came off the table with a club to the ace, and Moriarty was forced to unguard one of the major suits, which appeared to occasion him no discomfort. “You seem to have forgotten, Mr. Holmes,” he sneered, “that a squeeze cannot operate when there is no entry in the hand opposite the squeeze card. Thus, I fancy that on this occasion I can well afford to part with a spade, as dummy is entryless.”

But when Holmes, with a quiet smile, now cashed the ace and king of spades, there was no defense to prevent him making twelve tricks. His next lead was a low heart on which Moriarty was obliged to play the jack to prevent dummy from winning the trick. Holmes then took the two remaining tricks with the nine and five of hearts as Moriarty was obliged to lead away from the 7-3. “I am afraid,” said Holmes, as he savored the end position, “that we have neglected to score the 150 honors that Professor Moriarty was kind enough to deal my partner on the first hand of the chukker, which incidentally bore a marked resemblance to the notorious Mississippi Heart hand. I fancy that Doctor Watson and I have won this tournament by a margin of ten aggregate points.”

As the final card was played Moriarty, whose mounting wrath had been for some time obvious in his flushed and furious face, leapt to his feet and, with a strangled scream of rage, kicked the table over and rushed at Holmes with murder in his eyes. I had

taken the precaution of slipping my old service revolver into my pocket before leaving my room and I was lucky enough to interpose my not inconsiderable bulk between Holmes and Moriarty and stick the barrel in the latter's ribs.

"I think, Professor Moriarty," remarked Holmes coolly, "that you would do well to make your exit as speedily and inconspicuously as possible. I have alerted the local constabulary to the possibility of trouble and I am sure you are aware of the somewhat primitive conditions at the local jail."

The look Moriarty hurled at Holmes dripped with venom, and then, with a vile curse, he turned and left the ballroom.

"It seems, Watson, that I am once more in your debt. That scoundrel would have had me without your quickwitted action. Thank you, my dear fellow."

I felt myself redden and to cover my confusion remarked hastily, "I cannot for the life of me understand how you managed it, Holmes. I have never seen you play better. It was almost as though you knew every card in his hand."

"Ah, Watson," he replied, "you see, I *did* know every card in his hand."

"But, but Holmes..." I stammered.

"I remember you remarking on the singular vulgarity of this cigarette case which I placed on the table when we played Moriarty. I agree that aesthetically it has nothing to commend it, but do you not see, Watson, that its highly polished surface, placed at just the right angle on the table could..."

"Could be used as a mirror," I burst in, unable to conceal my excitement.

"Precisely, Watson," replied Holmes frowning slightly. "The technical term is, I believe, a 'shiner'. I have no compunction about using such methods against a villain like Professor Moriarty. Men such as he must be fought with their own weapons or not fought at all."

"And now, Madam," he continued, turning to our fair companion who throughout the foregoing events had remained pale but composed, "I trust that this experience has not been too alarming. I think you can be in no doubt now as to the true

character of that person whose real name is Professor Moriarty, whatever alias he may have used to you.”

She smiled sweetly. “Mr. Holmes, I am indeed grateful to you for the unobtrusive way in which you have disposed of this affair. As you know, my position is such that any breath of scandal attaching to me would have the gravest personal and international repercussions. Please accept my thanks.” As Holmes bent in the Continental manner over the soft white be ringed hand which peeped from the rich lace sleeve I am certain that, upon the austere countenance of that ascetic man, I beheld a blush.

ALBERT DORMER



After the Bridge Party

THE ladies can imagine the scene. Having spent all afternoon preparing the refreshments and making sure that you avoided repeating last time’s menu. After jumping up and down all evening looking after the guests. After trying to maintain the smile while the other half criticized your performance (he hadn’t noticed you were distracted)...you wander into the kitchen that now resembles a battlefield and brace yourself to restore order rather than face it in the morning.

Wonder of wonders — a voice from behind you says, “Can I give you a hand, darling?”

Eagerly you reply, “Yes — Please.”

The voice continues — “you hold ace, jack to five — king to four.”

A HELPING HAND

HAVE you ever wondered what an expert thinks about when he gazes at his dummy, before playing to the first trick? Have you ever wondered what you should be thinking about when you first take a look at those thirteen cards your partner has put down for you?

If the truth were to be told, it would be discovered that many players don't think too much about anything; others are thinking the wrong things; and some are so mad at their partners for putting down such a hideous sight that they can't focus their concentration on the hand.

The expert, however, can almost always forgive any dummy he finds because he is more interested in the problem at hand, namely, making his contract. For the moment his very being is concerned with that one problem — other matters can be left until later.

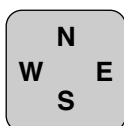
Now if the average player was told what the expert was thinking, maybe he could learn the same way. My objective is to check up on your thought habits as you look at some more or less unrelated declarer play problems. If you want to do this right, you should either remember or jot down your thoughts upon seeing the dummy and then check them against the experts.

Let's see how you do with the following problems. The first one — Count Your Losers — is the easiest of the bunch:

COUNT YOUR LOSERS

North/South Game. Dealer North.

♠ 943
♥ K102
♦ KQJ104
♣ A6



♠ A65
♥ QJ9874
♦ 2
♣ KJ3


Opening lead: ♠Q. Contract: 4♥

East plays the eight of spades at trick one. What are your thoughts? What is your plan?

An expert South would first count his losers and find that he had four: two spades and two red aces. Furthermore, he would realize that spades are probably breaking 4-3 judging from East's signal. If East had Kx he would have surely overtaken.


An expert would also realize that there is not enough time to set up the diamonds. The defenders would win the first diamond and cash their spades, so that plan is out. Drawing trumps is equally hopeless because of the spade situation. Obviously the only play available is to play East for the queen of clubs. South should duck the first spade (maybe West will have an aberration and not play a second one), win the second spade, lead a club to the ace and finesse the jack of clubs. Assuming this holds, a spade is discarded on the king of clubs and declarer can lose no more than one spade and two red aces.

A simple enough hand but one which at least 80% of all bridge players would muff simply because they wouldn't give it enough thought. The East/West cards were:

♠ QJ102 ♥ A3 ♦ 9863 ♣ 1087		♠ K87 ♥ 65 ♦ A75 ♣ Q9542
-------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

COUNT THEIR CARDS

Love All. Dealer South.

♠ K765
♥ J10
♦ A865
♣ K87

♠ A10843
♥ KQ95
♦ J
♣ AQ6

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	4 ♦	4 ♠	pass
4NT	pass	5 ♦	pass
6 ♠	all pass		

Opening lead: ♦K

You win dummy's ace, East following; you play the king of spades and West drops the queen. What should you be thinking?

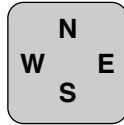
When the play of the hand revolves around whether to play for the drop or whether to take a finesse the expert must either rely on straight percentages (if there has been no bidding) or try to assess the most likely distribution from the bidding and lead.

In this case both trains of thought will lead to the same conclusion.

As far as percentages go, when declarer is missing two cards of equal value (the queen and the jack of spades) and one of them falls, straight percentages favor a finesse against the other honor. However, that train of thought is used when there have been no clues in the bidding. Here we have some enormous clues.

West has overcalled at the four level showing a seven card suit and has not led a singleton, something he would be apt to do. Well, if West has neither a singleton heart nor a singleton club he must have at least two cards in each of those suits. If that queen of spades is from QJ doubleton it means his original distribution was 2-2-7-2, which would hardly induce him to pre-empt at the four level. Certainly West must have a singleton somewhere and it appears to be in spades. All indications lead to the spade finesse. The East/West cards were:

♠ Q		♠ J92
♥ 76		♥ A8432
♦ KQ109432		♦ 7
♣ J95		♣ 10432

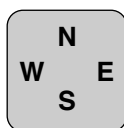


“I’m amazed you condescend to follow suit at all!”

TAKE CARE, PLAY SAFE

Game All. Dealer North.

♠ AK765
♥ A763
♦ J4
♣ A2



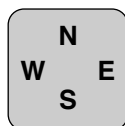
♠ 103
♥ K52
♦ K109
♣ KQ987

Opening lead: ♦6. Contract: 3NT

You play dummy's jack and East contributes the eight. What should you be thinking and how would you continue?

This time you should be counting your top tricks to see how many you have and how many you need. You have two spades, two hearts, three clubs and a diamond for a total of eight. You must set up one additional trick in either clubs, spades or hearts. That in itself is not so difficult if it were not for the precarious diamond position. West obviously has the ace-queen of diamonds and you must not let East get the lead come what may. Therefore you must establish your ninth trick in a suit that can be directed away from East. That suit is clubs. Play the ace of clubs and lead a small club to the nine. Assuming this loses to West, South will have established his ninth trick in clubs without letting East, the danger hand, get the lead. The East/West cards were:

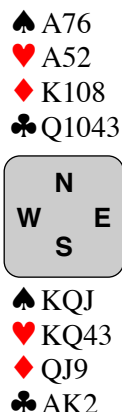
♠ 42
♥ 984
♦ AQ7632
♣ 106



♠ QJ98
♥ QJ10
♦ 85
♣ J543

LEAVE THE GUESS TILL LAST

Game All. Dealer South.



Opening lead: ♠10. Contract: 6NT

What is your general overall plan and in what order do you attack each suit?

First of all, you have nine top tricks with an easy two more by knocking out the ace of diamonds, the first order of business. After the ace of diamonds is knocked out (usually someone will take the first or second round of the suit) you have all the tricks but one. Whenever this happens there is a definite order in which you should cash your tricks.

First cash the suits from which you cannot possibly get any extra tricks — spades and diamonds. (The opponents may make faulty discards in suits that are more important to you — clubs and hearts.) Then cash tricks in the suit that has no alternative line of play — hearts; either hearts break 3-3 or they don't. Then, at the very end, play the suit that has various possibilities — clubs. For example, if on this hand West has turned up with five spades, two diamonds and two hearts you would know that you would have to finesse the ten of clubs to make your twelfth trick. On the other hand, if the count tells you that clubs are 3-3 you

can play the suit straight up. In any case clubs must be left to last because you have more than one way to play the suit. The East/West cards were:

♠ 109854	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 32
♥ 97		♥ J1086
♦ A6		♦ 75432
♣ J987		♣ 65

RISK ALL FOR YOUR CONTRACT

East/West Game. Dealer South.

♠ AQ103
♥ KQ87
♦ Q65
♣ 98
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>
♠ 62
♥ AJ10932
♦ J43
♣ AJ

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	dbl	rdbl	2 ♣
2 ♥	pass	4 ♥	all pass

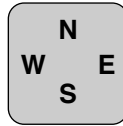
Opening lead: ♦ K

East signals with the ten and West continues with the ace and a diamond which East ruffs. East exits with the six of clubs. How do you plan the play from here?

Obviously you are in trouble, and whenever you are in trou-

ble desperate measures are called for. In this case you have to find a way to dispose of both your club and spade losers. A simple spade finesse will eliminate your spade loser but you must take the double spade finesse (low to the ten) in order to develop the spade suit for a club discard. This play requires both the king and jack of spades with West, not too unlikely in view of the takeout double. In any event, it is your only real shot on the hand. The East/West cards were:

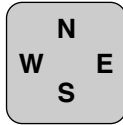
♠ KJ97		♠ 854
♥ 4		♥ 65
♦ AK982		♦ 107
♣ K54		♣ Q107632



LET THE OPPONENTS FIND THE CARDS FOR YOU

East/West Game. Dealer North.

♠ 10962
♥ K753
♦ K4
♣ A76



♠ AKQJ4
♥ A642
♦ J10
♣ J3

Opening lead: ♣10. Contract: 4♠

What should you be thinking and what is your overall plan?

Again start with losers. You have a club loser, at least one heart loser and, assuming hearts are 3-2 (otherwise the hand is

impossible), you may be forced to guess the diamond position. In any event you would rather the opponents lead diamonds, particularly East.

Whenever you have a suit, such as hearts here, which has an inevitable loser, you can very often time the play so as to throw an opponent in with that suit in order to force a favorable return.

First, duck the club. If East has both the king and queen he cannot know that your jack of clubs is doubleton and will be forced to shift. If he leads away from his queen of diamonds towards dummy's king your troubles are over. Give your opponents every chance in the world to do what you want them to do.

East wins the queen of clubs and shifts to a trump. Now what? Draw trumps and play the ace of clubs and ruff a club. Now three rounds of hearts. If East wins the third heart you are home free. If West wins the third heart and leads a low diamond you are forced to guess the diamond position. The East/West cards were:

♠ 873		♠ 5
♥ Q8		♥ J109
♦ Q732		♦ A9865
♣ 10985		♣ KQ42



"The rest are *whose*?"

ESTABLISH DUMMY'S SUIT

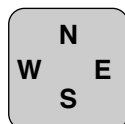
East/West Game. Dealer East.

♠ AJ976

♥ KJ3

♦ A76

♣ 84



♠ 4

♥ AQ109842

♦ J85

♣ J6

South	West	North	East
3♥	pass	4♥	1♣ all pass

Opening lead: ♣2

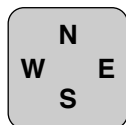
East cashes the queen and ace of clubs and shifts to the king of diamonds, West playing the four. What are your thoughts and how do you continue?

Although it looks likely that East has both diamond honors there is no need to put all your eggs in one basket. The spade suit can be established if spades are 4-3 and hearts are 2-1. Failing this you can always lead up to your jack of diamonds.

Your plan should be to win the ace of diamonds and play the ace and ruff a spade (but not with the deuce of trumps!), back to dummy with a trump (but not with the deuce), ruff a spade high, back to dummy using a middle trump and ruff a third spade high. Assuming spades have divided, enter dummy with the deuce of trumps to dummy's three and discard a diamond on dummy's long spade.

Of course if spades turn out to be 5-2 or trumps 3-0 you fall back on the alternative line of play discussed previously. The East/West cards were:

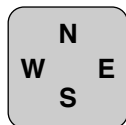
♠ K108		♠ Q532
♥ 76		♥ 5
♦ Q10432		♦ K9
♣ 1072		♣ AKQ953



CROSS-RUFFS

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 4
♥ QJ2
♦ Q954
♣ AQ876



♠ A9732
♥ AK1094
♦ 72
♣ 3

Contract: 4♥

How should South play on a trump lead?

Hands that have singletons in the dummy or singletons in both hands lend themselves to either ruffing losers in the dummy or cross-ruffing. In either case declarer is well advised to count tricks.

In the case of a trump lead, declarer can ruff only two cards in dummy along with his own five high trumps for a total of seven trump tricks. In addition there are two black aces for a total of nine tricks, which means that with a trump lead, declar-

er must take the club finesse. Assuming this works the ace of clubs is cashed and declarer alternately ruffs spades and clubs until he runs out of trumps in the dummy. The East/West cards were:

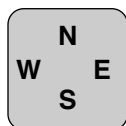
♠ KJ85		♠ Q106
♥ 53		♥ 876
♦ K86		♦ AJ103
♣ KJ54		♣ 1092



DEALING WITH SIDE SUITS

East/West Game. Dealer South.

♠ 1032
♥ K65
♦ A4
♣ 76543



♠ KQJ98
♥ A832
♦ 82
♣ AK

Opening lead: ♦ K. Contract: 4♠

What are your thoughts? What is your plan?

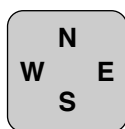
You should first see that you must lose a diamond and a spade and that you have two hearts to concern yourself with. Not one but two.

Whenever declarer has a four-card suit he must think in terms of that fourth card as well. Whenever dummy has three cards in declarer's four-card side suit there is always the possibility of ruffing the fourth round in dummy if dummy has a high trump.

The alternative is to work with the clubs, establishing that suit for heart discards. However, for that line to work, due to the acute entry situation, a 3-3 club break is a must, so the plan of ruffing the fourth heart with dummy's ten stands out a mile.

Win the ace of diamonds, cash the two top clubs and play three rounds of hearts. No matter who wins or what they play you can still ruff the fourth heart with the ten of spades losing one heart, one diamond and one spade. The East/West cards were:

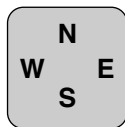
♠ A765		♠ 4
♥ J9		♥ Q1074
♦ KQ753		♦ J1096
♣ 108		♣ QJ92



SAFETY PLAYS

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ 53
♥ AKQ64
♦ 753
♣ 964



♠ AKQJ108
♥ 73
♦ AQ6
♣ AQ

Opening lead: ♠4. Contract: 6♠

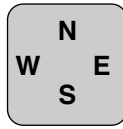
Organize your thoughts and decide upon your line of play.

On this hand you have loads to work with, which means you try to give yourself the best chance without taking any desperate measures.

When the dummy has a long suit that cannot be established by ruffing for lack of entries, and there is no ruffing to be done in dummy, for practical purposes you are dealing with a no trump hand and top tricks should be counted. Here you have six spades, three hearts and two aces. You have possible finesses in both minor suits, neither of them necessary if the hearts divide 3-3 for that will give you thirteen top tricks. Which is the point of the hand. You don't need thirteen tricks, you only need twelve!

Five heart tricks are not necessary, four will do. Draw the trumps and duck a heart around the table. Assuming East wins and plays a minor suit you must win the ace, run the trumps and test the hearts. If the hearts were not 4-2 (unlikely) you can fall back on your other minor suit finesse. The East/West cards were:

♠ 942		♠ 76
♥ J1052		♥ 98
♦ KJ8		♦ 10942
♣ K103		♣ J8752



BEWARE OF OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

Love All. Dealer South.

♠ J765
♥ 93
♦ AK42
♣ 876



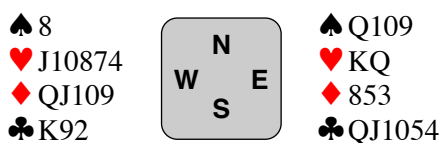
♠ AK432
♥ A652
♦ 76
♣ A3

Opening lead: ♦ Q. Contract: 4♠

This is the type of hand that presents an optical illusion to many players. If trumps are 2-2 the hand is absolutely cold for five spades losing but one heart and one club. So it seems that if trumps are 3-1 declarer should make four. That's right, he should, but not if he is not permitted to ruff two hearts in dummy.

Assume that declarer wins the diamond opening and plays two trumps, only to find one opponent with Qxx. Now when he gives up a heart in order to ruff two hearts in dummy the player with the Qxx of spades may arrange to win the heart, cash the queen of spades and bingo, South is down one!

When two cards have to be ruffed in dummy there have to be two trumps there. So win the diamond, cash one high spade and play a low heart. Win any return, cash the second spade and if spades don't break you can still ruff two hearts in dummy without a mean opponent drawing one of the dummy's trumps. The East/West cards were:



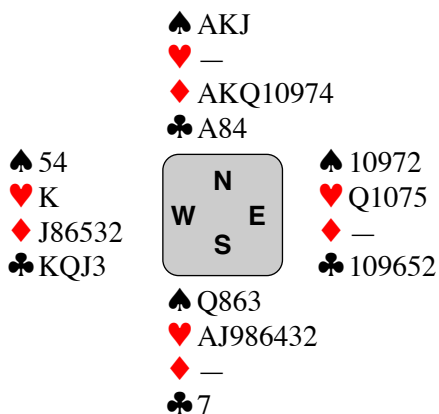
EDDIE KANTAR



THE IMPOSSIBLE TAKES A LITTLE LONGER

HOW would you recommend declarer to play AJ986432 of trumps opposite a void so as to lose no tricks? Impossible ...now watch John Collings in action:

North/South Game. Dealer South.



The bidding went:

North	East	South	West
2♣	pass	2♥	pass
4NT	pass	5♦	pass
7♦	pass	pass ¹	dbl
pass	pass	7♥ ²	dbl
all pass			

- (1) Give him benefit of the doubt this time.
- (2) Not any longer!

The king of clubs was led. John played the ace and calmly led the ace of diamonds so that he could discard his non-existent club losers. Quick as a flash East ruffed with the five and

declarer resignedly over-ruffed. A spade to the ace so that the king of diamonds could be led. East was not going to be caught, however, so again he ruffed low. Declarer over-ruffed and entered dummy with the king of spades. The queen of diamonds came next and once again East ruffed low. John over-ruffed and cashed the ace of hearts felling both the king and queen. "We were lucky the trumps broke, partner," said John.

Hard though it is to believe, this is a true story from a very high stake rubber bridge game in London.

Here is Collings in action again.

♠ A10987
♥ —
♦ AK42
♣ AK105

N

W S E

♠ K542
♥ 65432
♦ J7
♣ 32

The auction had been fast and furious starting with East who dealt and opened with one club, thereafter:

West	North	East	South
		1♣	pass
1♥	dbl	2♥	2♠(?)
pass	4♥(!)	dbl	pass
pass	5♣(!)	pass	5♠
pass	6♦(!)	pass	6♠
all pass			

Once John had emerged with his free bid of two spades there was no escape. How would you fancy your chances of landing this contract after an initial trump lead?

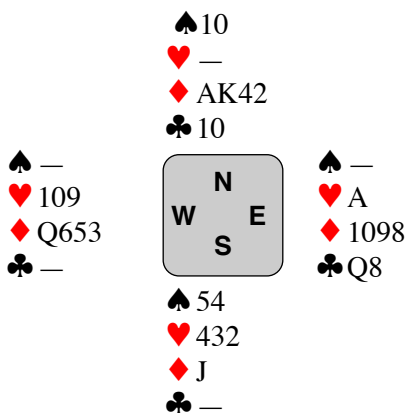
As soon as dummy appeared John wondered why West had not led either a heart or a club — his partner's suit. West was good enough to realize that if the spade suit was slightly different John would have been able to make his contract on a cross-ruff. John deduced that West did not have a spade honor and rose with dummy's ace playing for a 2-2 break.

At trick two the ace of clubs was cashed, declarer hoping to be able to see why West had not led one. East dropped the nine and West the six. At trick three South crossed to his hand with a trump and at trick four he ruffed a heart in dummy noting the fall of the queen from East.

By this time declarer was confident that East must have started with both the queen and jack of spades, three top heart honors and presumably a club honor. This didn't leave much for West and as he had freely responded to the one club opening, John considered that he must have the queen of diamonds which scotched the normal plan of leading a diamond towards the jack hoping for East to hold the queen. However, he saw that he could still make the contract provided that West had started with four diamonds and a doubleton club honor. How? Just look and see what happened!

At trick five, Collings came off dummy by playing a small club. After a little thought East played low and West was forced to take the trick with the jack. With no black cards left West had to lead a red suit and as he held the queen of diamonds he naturally elected to lead a heart.

Declarer ruffed in dummy and cashed the king of clubs on which West could safely discard a heart but when John crossed to his hand with a club ruff West found himself mercilessly squeezed. The position was:



South ruffs the ten of clubs and West has to find a discard. If West throws a diamond, declarer ruffs out the diamonds and if West throws a heart (which is what he did) South ruffs another heart and claims the rest.

Notice that if West tries to avoid the endplay by dropping the jack of clubs under the ace, East will get endplayed instead. If he hangs on to a top heart he will eventually be put on play to lead up to dummy's club tenace and if he throws his hearts and just holds clubs he can be endplayed by ducking a club through to him. Looking at the actual play we have very little doubt that John Collings would have made no mistake.

A truly magnificent example of card play par excellence.



The Anxious Bidder

VERY intense player, at the end of the bidding: “The reason I asked for a review of the auction was that I didn’t hear the first bid and didn’t believe the second.”

BIDDING QUIZ

IT is usually good fun to participate in bidding competitions, because there is rarely a ‘right’ answer, just matters of opinion. Try your hand at this selection, and see if you agree with my ‘answers’.

You are West. Choose your preferred bid from the alternatives provided, and give reasons for your choice.

1. Dealer North. East/West Game. [To Answer](#)

♠ AK108753
♥ Q976
♦ A
♣ 3

West	North	East	South
	1NT	pass	3NT
?			

Your options are:

(a) pass (b) double (c) 4♠

2. Dealer East. Game All. [To Answer](#)

♠ 4
♥ Q875
♦ J9532
♣ J107

West	North	East	South
		1♠	pass
pass	dbl ¹	pass	pass ²
?			

- (1) Take-out
(2) Penalty

Your options are:

(a) pass (b) redouble (c) 1NT (d) 2♦

3. Dealer West. Love All. To Answer

♠ AQ103
♥ J5
♦ J9865
♣ K10

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	pass	1♥
?			

Your options are;

(a) 1♠ (b) 2♦ (c) pass (d) double

4. Dealer South. North/South Game. To Answer

♠ Q73
♥ Q984
♦ KQ5
♣ QJ5

West	North	East	South
pass	2♥	2♠	1♥
?			pass

Your options are:

(a) pass (b) 2NT (c) 3NT (d) 3♠ (e) 4♠



ANSWERS

1. I selected double, and would argue as follows. Rather like a Lightner double against slams, a double of 3NT ‘out-of-the-blue’ is reserved for hands which need partner to find an unusual lead. As South raised 1NT directly to 3NT, without using Stayman to enquire about North’s majors, it can be assumed that he is minor suit oriented. So, East should work out that we require him to lead a major, and will hopefully choose his weaker one, since our double requested something out of the ordinary.

4♠ was my second choice, but I ultimately rejected it because we have no guarantee that the opponents’ bidding cannot be trusted. If we judge wrongly, it is liable to be a costly mistake (about 800 points). ‘Pass’ is just too feeble for me, I’m afraid. [To Question](#)

Marks: double: 10; 4♠: 6; pass: 3.

2. Do we let partner stew in his own juice, or do we ride to the rescue like the Fifth Cavalry? Neither route will end ‘happily ever after’ in my view; we are just faced with trying to reduce our losses. In my experience, it has nearly always proved to be better to find another contract somewhere than let matters be. South is sitting over partner with at least as many spades, often more, and is probably drooling at the prospect of defending 1♠ doubled.

If we accept that we must not pass, which of the ‘rescue acts’ gives us the best chance of avoiding a large penalty? I do not like 2♦, because it suggests a better suit. Partner may leave us there with a singleton and four hearts. 1NT is a probable final contract, but we do not want to play it with an opening spade lead coming through dummy. Not a pleasant prospect!

Redouble will signal to partner he should bid another suit. In the end, an ‘SOS’ redouble is the winner, but I gave consolation marks to 1NT. [To Question](#)

Marks: redouble: 10; 1NT: 7; 2♦: 4; pass: 3.

3. After an eminently sound decision not to open the bidding, we are now looking at a 'maximum' hand. We could not have more. In such situations it is considered 'safe' to enter the auction, because partner will not get too excited. Indeed, it seems unnecessarily cautious to pass at this stage, as the potential benefits of either finding a useful part-score or pushing the opposition around (always a pleasurable thing to do!) outweigh the risk of being penalised.

As in (2) above, a call of 2♦ overstates the quality of the suit and could produce an unwanted opening lead.

I just prefer double to an overcall of 1♠, because it leaves more avenues open. Should East respond 2♣, we can then bid 2♦ putting over the message that we also have spades. On a good day, East will choose either spades or diamonds, and our search for a fit will be over. I gave a high consolation mark to 1♠. [To Question](#)

Marks: double: 10; 1♠: 8; 2♦: 5; pass: 3.

4. Plenty to choose from here, but careful analysis will dismiss four of the alternatives immediately. East is using the prevailing vulnerability, and the fact that the opponents have found a fit (thus increasing the chance of our side having one), to put in a 'balancing' bid of 2♠. He knows that we will be unable to 'protect' should he pass.

Assuming that all the players have an average hand for their bidding, East is left with about 9 or 10 points. Holding a miserable 12 count ourselves, there is danger beyond 2♠! It is time to pass, and look forward to basking in the glow of appreciation from our partner. Consolation marks for 2NT as it is the best of the 'bids'. [To Question](#)

Marks: pass: 10; 2NT: 7; 3♠: 5; 3NT: 3; 4♠: 2.

If you managed 40 points or above, bravo! If not, who cares what I think anyway?

TONY FORRESTER'S HAND

In 1987, Great Britain qualified for the Bermuda Bowl by finishing second in the European Championships of that year. It all came down to the very last deal. David Burn, our coach, takes up the story...

WHEN the final hand of the tournament came up on the screen the result of the Norway vs. Netherlands match was known and the Vugraph audience knew that Britain had to gain 8 IMPs in order to qualify for the World Championship on a split tie for second place. It may not have been a memorable hand but it deserves its place for historical reasons.

East/West Game. Dealer West.

	♠ Q74	
	♥ —	
	♦ 1075	
	♣ AJ109543	
♠ 1095		♠ K3
♥ 962		♥ AQ1085
♦ J432		♦ AK86
♣ K62		♣ 87
	♠ AJ862	
	♥ KJ743	
	♦ Q9	
	♣ Q	

In the Closed Room, after being allowed to win the first trick with the queen of clubs, South switched to ♠A allowing Flint (East) to escape for one down in three hearts.

In the Open Room, West passed, Forrester as North opened three clubs and East overcalled with three hearts. Perhaps feeling that his opponents might have a better spot, Brock (South) passed and so did West. He need not have worried for Forrester re-opened with a double!! It might have been because (by his

standards) he had a maximum pre-empt, it might have been the feeling that it was necessary to try and get something back for it was in the Open Room that Iceland had appeared to collect two big gains earlier. Now South was happy to pass and, although the defense was as at the other table, declarer did not control the matter as well as Flint and ended two down. The penalty of 500 points meant 9 IMPs for Britain and the required 18-12 win.

Level with Norway on VPs, the split tie was resolved on the result of the earlier match between the two countries — which Britain had won 16-14!

We were off to Jamaica, with high hopes. The silver medal awaited us.



“No, sir, it’s only 200 if you’re vulnerable.”

SALUTE TO THE BLUE TEAM

In 1969, the Italian Blue Team, world champions since 1957, defended their title for the last time, as calls of family and business became too great to resist. This is how Harold Franklin assessed their achievements after the announcement of their retirement.

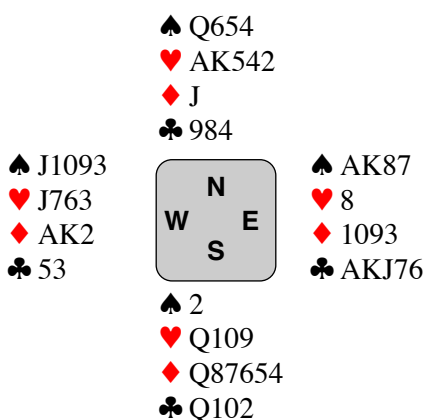
THE Blue Team first won the World Championship in 1957 and successfully defended it ever since. The Blue Team in 1957 was Forquet and Siniscalco, D'Alelio and Chiaradia, Avarelli and Belladonna. In 1961 Siniscalco retired from competitive bridge and his place was taken by Garozzo, now regarded by many as the most brilliant individualist in the game. In 1963 Chiaradia retired and was replaced by Pabis Ticci, and since then there has been no change. In the first Olympiad in 1960 the Blue Team were unable to attend in strength and France took the title. In the second and third Olympiads, in 1964 and 1968, the Blue team were together and triumphant.

It is unlikely that in any game so competitive as international bridge one small group of players has so dominated the rest of the world. It is unlikely that the measure of their success will ever be repeated. Their strength lay in many directions. Clearly all six members of the team were top class players by any standard. Each of the three pairs evolved its own system and really worked at perfecting it. The three systems, the Neapolitan Club of Forquet-Garozzo, the Roman Club of Avarelli-Belladonna and the Little Roman of D'Alelio-Pabis Ticci are quite different and none of the players are entirely happy except when playing their own system with their own partner, although Garozzo and Belladonna have found a common ground and may well return to the arena after the Blue Team has been disbanded.

One of their most endearing qualities, and probably one of the decisive ones, has been the respect and loyalty they have at all times shown for each other. The bickering and fault finding which few teams seem able to totally escape has at no time

been a problem with the Blue Team. Every pair was at all times ready to stand down in favor of the other pairs, and though certain of the players, notably Belladonna and Garozzo, might have made more headlines, each in his turn has been the star of one championship or another. Though Forquet and Garozzo are generally regarded as the anchor pair, in 1966 in St. Vincent it was Avarelli and Belladonna who were voted the outstanding pair and in 1967 in Miami Beach that distinction was accorded to D'Alelio and Pabis Ticci.

In their final preparation for the 1969 Championship they met France in an exhibition match in Cannes. The Italians were in excellent form and Garozzo displayed his virtuosity in this Four Spade contract:



With East declarer, South led the ten of hearts, his partner's suit. North won with the king and returned the jack of diamonds. For the Rama audience, secure in the knowledge that the clubs were 3-3 and the queen of spades well placed, there was no problem. It was a little more complicated for Garozzo who, after winning the diamond at trick two, played three rounds of clubs, ruffing the third with the nine of spades. Still safe with the spade finesse, but Garozzo saw a better plan — if he could cash two top diamonds to go with his two club tricks, a cross-ruff would assure him of six trump tricks. After ruffing

the third club he ruffed a heart in hand and led a diamond to the ace in dummy. North ruffed and returned a heart, and the prospects were gloomy — except that the whole hand was now known to declarer. North was known to have begun with three clubs and one diamond and South had already followed to three hearts therefore North must have begun with at least four spades. Declarer was now reduced to the Blank AK of trumps while North held Qxx and dummy J10x. Declarer drew one round of trumps and then led a fourth club, discarding the dummy's last heart. East could ruff for his second trick but thereafter he was powerless. If he returned a trump, declarer would win and lead a fifth club, discarding dummy's diamond. If he returned a heart, declarer would discard a diamond from hand and ruff low in dummy and the top spade would be the tenth trick.

And from another practice this hand of Forquet's:

♠ K42		♠ 753
♥ AKQJ106		♥ 75
♦ K72		♦ AQ64
♣ Q	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♣ 8532

Forquet, West, opened One Club (Neapolitan) and North, vulnerable, bid Two Spades. East bid Two No Trumps, showing his number of controls, West Three Hearts, North Three Spades and East Four Hearts, the final contract. North opened the king and ace of clubs and declarer ruffed and played two rounds of trumps, everybody following. Nine top tricks — ten if the diamond suit behaves and if not, declarer must find some sort of end game. All he knows so far is that North holds six spades since with seven a spade switch at trick two would have been obligatory. One trump still outstanding but declarer was not clear at the moment as to what would be his most convenient discard from dummy and so he made the key play of leading a diamond to dummy and ruffing a club before drawing the last trump. When North followed to the third club it was known that the diamonds could not break and since there could be no

squeeze on South declarer was able to discard a diamond from dummy on the third heart. He continued with the king of diamonds — North had failed to follow to the third heart; if he also had a singleton diamond he could be thrown in with the fourth club. North held a second diamond and declarer had to look elsewhere. He played the rest of his trumps before crossing to dummy with the third diamond. North discarded three spades, the nine, ten and jack. The outstanding spades were the AQ86 and South held one of them. Declarer led the three of spades from dummy and when South played the eight he covered with the king. North had begun with:

♠AQJ1096
 ♥84
 ♦83
 ♣AKJ

His last three cards were ♠AQ6 and he had to concede a trick to the seven of spades. Had he parted with the six of spades declarer would have played a low spade from both hands and made the king of spades for his tenth trick.

The Blue Team will be remembered for more than their bridge skills. They were at all times modest in victory, generous to their opponents, the epitome of courtesy at the bridge table. The least pretentious of players found it a joy to play against them.

HAROLD FRANKLIN



BACK TO THE FUTURE

FIVE minutes to go, and I still had another ten miles to cover before the start of the third Eurasian Bridge Championships in Lower Slovobia. Anxiously consulting my little red book of rules and regulations I found on page 379, subsection 28C, the warning that congress participants arriving late were liable to fines of up to ten master points.

I arrived in the congress hall with seconds to spare and quickly found the soundproof booth at which I was due to start. I had not met my partner before, hardly surprising since nobody was allowed more than three sessions with the same partner in one season, thus inhibiting any illicit partnership understandings. Everyone was compelled to play the same bidding system — the Eurasian Diamond, commonly known as ED. With a touch of nostalgia I reminisced over the convention cards of not so long ago — all conventions nowadays were prohibited except those inherent in ED. The penalty for trying to play or encourage new systems was harsh, a confrontation with the Eurasian Bridge Union (EBU) committee, usually resulting in a term of not less than a month in one of the bridge penitentiaries.

A bell rang to indicate the start of the first hand. I was soon dummy, and after tabling my hand, permitted myself to look around the congress hall. My eyes flitted over the rows and rows of playing booths towards the big stage at the back of the hall where various bridge representatives were seated round a large table. Doubtless they were examining film from the various hidden cameras around the hall, so that unreported cases of revoking, psyching, and general malpractice might be detected. I gazed reverently at the chairman of the CCCP, the Central Committee for Controlling Psyches. Not so long ago I had been brought before the CCCP. The case against me was opening one heart on jack doubleton with a flat three count in third position. For nearly a month I had stayed in a penitentiary, where part of the treatment was being dealt 1,000 Yarboroughs at a bridge table with three other players and having to pass, unless of course partner made a forcing ED bid. During my ‘stay’ there, I came across some

unfortunates who had tried to revive the club systems of the early 70s. Their treatment entailed receiving an electric shock whenever they opened one club. Consequently they were also taught to find alternative openings to one club whilst playing ED.

Partner finished playing the hand with a second to spare (a strict time limit of five minutes for each hand being imposed, any offenders were 'booked' by one of the TDs and three bookings could lead to suspension and/or fine). The scorer at our table phoned in the hand result to the master scorer, and soon our position would be displayed on the computer-controlled electronic scoreboard. I suddenly noticed a rumpus going on in a nearby booth. Three TDs were grappling with a poor man who had revoked. He would now be taken away to a bridge penitentiary and be taught to follow suit. All his hard-earned master points would automatically be withdrawn.

As we changed booths for the next round I could not help noticing some two dozen men and women at one end of the hall. They were observing the proceedings with odd, vacant looks on their faces. Every couple of minutes or so they would smile and mutter something to themselves. I later found out that they were ex-overbidders about to be allowed to play in bridge events again. They were muttering "pass".

Partner was not an unsound player and we fared quite well, finishing in the end 161st out of 580 pairs. After the last hand we stood to attention as we listened to a recorded message from the president of the EBU thanking us all for our support and giving details of further congresses. It was now that the final examination was made of the hidden cameras' film, so that any offenders could be 'detained' before leaving.

Even as I was on my way out a woman was ushered by a TD into a side door. I heard screams then silence...presumably the camera had detected another possible case of 'cheating'.

When I arrived home there was a letter waiting for me on the mat. I opened it and my heart missed a beat. My EBU subscription was two weeks overdue.

ANON — *for obvious reasons*

HOW TO DESCRIBE YOUR HAND

— *in one easy lesson!*

A BIG game had been in progress at the club for several hours. During most of the time a lady kibitzer had followed the play with evident interest. Eventually one of the four men playing excused himself at the end of a rubber and stated that he had to make a call on a client close by, but he would come back in about twenty minutes if the other three players wished to continue the game. They readily agreed to this but asked the lady kibitzer if she would make up the four during the period of their friend's absence. She said that she did not think her standard was good enough for them. They quickly reassured her that she had nothing to worry about and it was agreed that whoever cut as her partner would be responsible for any losses she incurred.

With some reluctance she consented and sat down to deal the first hand. On being told to open the bidding she said: "Four clubs." This was doubled by her left-hand opponent and the bidding came round to her again. "Four diamonds," was her next surprising move. "Double," by left-hand opponent. Round to her again. "Four hearts," she said. "Double" this time by right-hand opponent. Again back to her...and the "jack of spades," was her helpful final offering.



"One club? All right. *We're* not deaf!"

THE 'GOOD PARTNER' TEST

THE following ten questions should remind everyone of the result of pointless and acrimonious discussions after play. Am I preaching to the converted? To find out, try this simple test:

- (1) The only excuse for discussing disastrous results at the table is:
 - (a) to properly humble partner
 - (b) to give the opponents' morale a boost
 - (c) to make sure everyone understands that the disaster was not your fault
 - (d) to prevent a recurrence of the disaster in the same session
- (2) Partner errs on defense, letting a beatable contract make. You quickly and vocally point out what he should have done. A probable result is that partner will:
 - (a) be eternally grateful to you
 - (b) be inspired by your words and play double dummy for the rest of the session
 - (c) pick up the duplicate board and bonk you on the nose
 - (d) dwell on his error and have difficulty concentrating on the remaining boards
- (3) An appropriate topic for partnership discussion is:
 - (a) partner's shortcomings in dummy play
 - (b) partner's silly lapses in concentration
 - (c) what books on defensive play partner should read
 - (d) cue-bidding philosophy in slam auctions
- (4) First-time partnerships often do well because:
 - (a) the players display their most supportive behavior
 - (b) the players employ a relatively uncomplicated system
 - (c) the players take care to avoid ambiguous bids and defensive plays
 - (d) all of the above

- (5) Which question should you *not* ask yourself before adding a new convention to your system?
- (a) is the convention easy to remember?
 - (b) how often does the chance to use it occur?
 - (c) does it replace a natural bid that is useful?
 - (d) do Meckstroth/Rodwell use it?
- (6) In a competitive auction, your partner doubles the opponents in four spades and they wrap up +790. Your best move is to:
- (a) retreat into a sulky silence
 - (b) announce that you certainly had your bids
 - (c) ask the opponents what they would have done with partner's hand
 - (d) say "tough luck, partner" and go on to the next hand
- (7) If you're the stronger player in a partnership, you should always:
- (a) try to be declarer even if the contract isn't best
 - (b) mastermind the bidding so your side gets to the best spot
 - (c) make certain your partner knows who is carrying whom
 - (d) bid and play normally, maintaining your own good habits while giving partner practice and confidence

And here's where
it gets really
interesting...



(8) *East/West Game. Dealer East*

	♠ 8	
	♥ 87	
	♦ J95	
	♣ KJ106532	
♠ 107532	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W S E S </div>	♠ KQ964
♥ Q10943		♥ AKJ2
♦ 83		♦ A2
♣ 4		♣ Q8
	♠ AJ	
	♥ 65	
	♦ KQ10764	
	♣ A97	

West	North	East	South
		1 ♠	2 ♦
4 ♠	5 ♦	dbl	all pass

Since a diamond lead would beat five spades, East's double of five diamonds was correct. West led his singleton club to the jack, queen and ace. Declarer led a diamond to East's ace. After ruffing the club return, however, West tried for the setting trick in spades. South produced the ace of spades and claimed his contract.

East hotly criticized partner's spade return, contending that he, East, was certain to hold the ace of hearts for his double of five diamonds. The most likely reason for this diatribe was that:

- (a) East disliked South and was upset at seeing him score up +550
- (b) East had his faults, but he was certain that being wrong wasn't one of them
- (c) East had a substantial bet on the outcome of the match
- (d) East realized that he should have laid down the king of hearts before returning a club

(9) Love All. Dealer North

	♠ KJ53	
	♥ K6	
	♦ AQ6	
	♣ J853	
♠ 742		♠ 86
♥ QJ1075		♥ A943
♦ J73		♦ 109854
♣ K4		♣ AQ
	♠ AQ109	
	♥ 82	
	♦ K2	
	♣ 109762	

West	North	East	South
—	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♠	pass	3♣
pass	4♠	all pass	

West leads the queen of hearts, covered by the king and ace. East returns a heart to the ten, and West shifts to a diamond, won by dummy's ace. Declarer draws trumps, then leads a club from hand. West, not sure what is going on in the minors, finally puts up the king of clubs. At this point, East can hasten the demise of the partnership by:

- informing everybody that East/West are cold for four hearts(!)
- overtaking with the ace of clubs and giving West a disgusted look
- laughing uproariously at West's play
- any of the above, but especially (b)

If you answered 'd' to all of the questions, you have passed the test and can go to the table without a learner's permit!

If not, back to driving school.

A SLEEPING PARTNER

JONES was an expert bridge player. One evening he called in at his club intending to play 'cut-in' rubber bridge. As he was passing through the bar he saw Smith, another expert bridge player. He stopped, and said, "Hello Smith, I haven't seen you at this club before, do you come here often?"

Smith replied, "Not very often and then it is usually to have a drink or a meal. I rarely play here."

After a drink or two, Jones said, "There is a ten cents a hundred partnership game in this club tonight, and I thought that we might pair up. With our combined talent we should win a few bucks."

Smith said, "Fine, I can play for three hours or so."

The two experts finished their drinks and went up to the card room and started to play. About two hours later they were each about \$80 in front so they decided to call it a day and went back to the bar for a celebration drink.

While sipping his double whisky Jones remarked, "We should do this again, it's like shooting fish in a barrell."

Smith replied, "Fine, let us make a firm date," and Jones said, "What about a week today?"

Smith consulted his diary but shaking his head replied, "Sorry old man, not that night, Sikorski is playing."

Jones said, "I see," and he suggested a day two weeks later.

Smith again shook his head saying, "Sorry, not that night either, Sikorski is also playing on that occasion."

Jones' curiosity now got the better of him for he said, "I don't wish to pry into your affairs but this Sikorski, I don't think I know him. Where does he play?"

Smith replied, "It's a funny thing but I don't know *where* he plays, or *how* he plays or for that matter *what* he plays. But *when* he plays, I sleep with his wife."

DEFENSIVE SIGNALING

Tips and Quiz

Defense is generally conceded to be the toughest aspect of bridge. One of the few tools available to us is the “signal”. Here Brian Senior, English international and author of many books, tries to help us get the best out of what is available.

AT the start of play, declarer is in the happy position of knowing his side's combined assets and being able to plan accordingly. He can take finesses, make ducking, blocking, and unblocking plays, prepare for a squeeze, whatever he deems necessary. Of course, all these plays are also available to the defense, but since each defender can see only half his side's assets, it is not always clear what is required. Even when one defender does see the correct line of defense, he is often dependent on partner's co-operation, and as things may look very different from the other side of the table this is not always forthcoming. Declarer also has the advantage that with no partner to fool he can falsecard to his heart's content.

The bidding and the way declarer is tackling the hand give useful clues to the defense, but for real success the defenders must use signals to tell each other about their hands. Now you could start fingering your wedding ring to show interest in the diamond suit, or slap your card onto the table, while smiling and nodding vigorously, to tell partner you approve of his lead, but you would soon run out of opponents. The cards you play must send the message. There are three basic types of signal.

- 1) *The attitude signal* — the size of the card tells partner whether you like his lead. Usually, a high card says you do: a low one you don't. (High Encouraging, Low Discouraging. HELD.)
- 2) *The distributional signal* — the order in which you play your cards shows your length in the suit led. Playing high-low shows an even number, low-high an odd number. (High Even, Low Odd. HELO.)

- 3) *The suit preference signal* — the size of the card tells partner which of the other suits you are interested in. A high card shows interest in a high ranking suit, a low card in a low suit.

In general, the suit preference signal is given a lesser role, being restricted to certain specific situations. What about the other two, which should you use? We all know people who will swear that one type of signal is the one that really matters. “Always give me the count partner, and I’ll know what to do.” Or, “All I need to know is where your high cards are, give me attitude every time.”

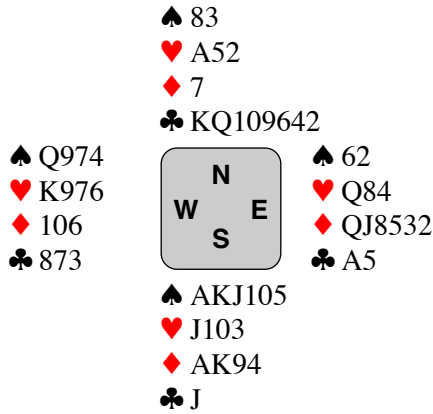
Which group is right? The answer is neither — or both! Either method is quite effective on most hands. If your partner always shows shape you will soon become adept at building up a picture of the unseen hands from his signals. Equally, if he always tells you where his strength lies, you will get used to using that information to plan your defense. However, start feeding attitude signals to a player who has played distribution all his life, and he will have great difficulty in making use of them, his mind simply isn’t used to working that way.

The real answer is that some hands are more suited to one method, some to the other. As well as your own hand, the opening lead, and what dummy looks like will all help you to decide what partner will be most interested in.

Whatever basic method is agreed upon, there will always be exceptions, situations where it is absolutely clear that the normal meaning of a signal is inappropriate. Also, it will sometimes happen that you simply cannot afford to play the normal card as it would risk throwing away a trick in the suit. Given those two limitations, it is usually best to signal honestly. The other point is that you should make a signal as clear as possible, for example, holding K832, if you wish to encourage or show an even number — play the eight not the ambiguous looking three.

We will assume that our basic signaling method is distributional — we echo with an even number in the suit led, play upwards with an odd number (HELO). Let’s look at some of the situations in which the distributional signal can be useful.

DUCK OR WIN?

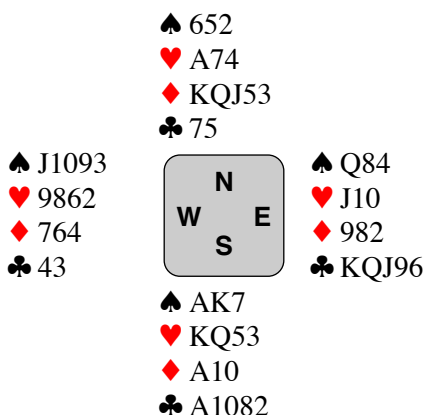


South	North
1♠	2♣
3♦	3♥
3NT	pass

Contract: 3NT. Lead: ♥6

You are sitting East and partner leads ♥6 to ♥2, ♥Q, ♥3, and you return the ♥8 to the jack, king and ace. Now a spade to the jack and partner's queen, and he plays a third heart, declarer winning the ten. Declarer plays the ♣J to dummy's queen. If you duck he has 9 tricks, but of course you win because partner's three showed an odd number of clubs.

WHICH SUIT TO KEEP

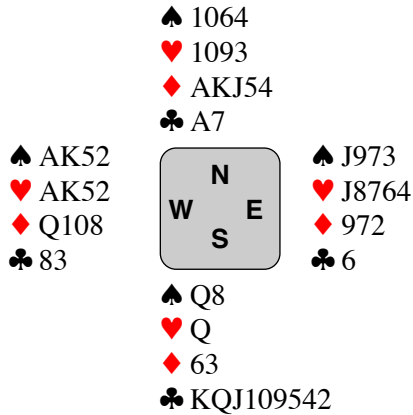


South	North
2NT	6NT
pass	

Contract: 6NT. Lead: ♠J

Sitting West, it looks natural to hang on to your spades on the run of the diamonds. That would mean throwing a heart however, which would prove fatal on this deal. Fortunately, when partner follows with the ♠4 to trick one, you know he has an odd number and you can therefore afford to pitch your spades. As it happens, your insignificant looking hearts prove to be the key to beating the slam.

CASHING OUT



South	West	North	East
5♣	dbl	pass	pass
pass			

Contract: 5♣ doubled. Lead: ♠A

You cash the ♠A and declarer drops the queen, next you try the ♥A and again he plays the queen. If you try to cash the wrong king declarer's other loser will disappear on the diamonds. Isn't it lucky that partner's distributional signals have told you how many cards he holds in each suit. High in spades, low in hearts.

OVERCOMING DECLARER'S DECEPTION

♠ 874
♥ A5
♦ AJ10863
♣ 64

♠ KQJ95
♥ QJ4
♦ 5
♣ Q1083

N
W S E

♠ 62
♥ K10873
♦ K72
♣ 972

♠ A103
♥ 962
♦ Q94
♣ AKJ5

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♦	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	all pass

Contract: 3NT. Lead: ♠K

Declarer ducks the lead in case the diamond finesse loses. However, partner's six tells you he has an even number so you avoid the trap of playing ♠Q and switch to the ♥Q.

PROBLEMS

Now it is time for you to put some of the theory into practice:

1)

♠ 764
♥ 95
♦ KJ103
♣ Q742

♠ Q1083
♥ J876
♦ A64
♣ 98

N
W S E

Contract: 3NT after South opened 2NT. You lead the ♠3 to the four, jack and king. Declarer plays ♦Q, ♦4, ♦3, ♦7, then the ♦5. Do you duck again or win? [To Answer](#)

2)

♠ 762	
♥ J4	
♦ KQJ7	
♣ J1092	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 985
	♥ Q10
	♦ 10643
	♣ A754

South	North
1 ♥	1NT
3 ♥	4 ♥
pass	

Partner leads the ♠3 to the ♠2, ♠5, and ♠J. Declarer plays ♦2 to ♦9, ♦J and ♦6, then the ♣J. How do you defend? [To Answer](#)

3)

	♠ A64	
	♥ KQ95	
	♦ K74	
	♣ K74	
♠ 7	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
♥ A63		
♦ 10863		
♣ 108632		

East	South	West	North
1 ♥	3 ♠	pass	4 ♠
all pass			

You lead the ♥A, ♥5, ♥2, ♥7. How do you continue? [To Answer](#)

4)

♠ Q942
 ♥ 64
 ♦ AKQ1064
 ♣ 9

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7
 ♥ J832
 ♦ 9832
 ♣ K764

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♣	4 ♠	all pass	

Partner leads the ♦ 5 to Dummy's ace and declarer's seven.
 What do you play? [To Answer](#)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Solutions

1)

♠ Q1083 ♥ J876 ♦ A64 ♣ 98	♠ 764 ♥ 95 ♦ KJ103 ♣ Q742	♠ J92 ♥ 1043 ♦ 987 ♣ KJ105
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ AK5
 ♥ AKQ2
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ A63

Contract: 3NT

You led a spade to the jack and king, and declarer played diamonds... ♦ Q, ♦ 4, ♦ 3, ♦ 7, then the ♦ 5. If declarer has four

diamonds it does not matter what you do, if he has three you must duck, while if he has two you want to win. It may look as though partner has started an echo as the $\spadesuit 2$ is missing. However if he has an even number it must be a doubleton. Why? Because you always signal with the most clearcut card available, so with 9872 partner would have played the $\spadesuit 9$ — not the $\spadesuit 7$. You should duck the second diamond because partner has either 72 — when it doesn't matter, or 987 — when it is essential. [To Question](#)

2)

	\spadesuit 762	
	\heartsuit J4	
	\diamondsuit KQJ7	
	\clubsuit J1092	
\spadesuit Q1043	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	\spadesuit 985
\heartsuit A92		\heartsuit Q10
\diamondsuit 95		\diamondsuit 10643
\clubsuit Q863		\clubsuit A754
	\spadesuit AKJ	
	\heartsuit K87653	
	\diamondsuit A82	
	\clubsuit K	

Contract: 4 \heartsuit

Partner led the $\spadesuit 3$ to declarer's $\spadesuit J$, now declarer played the $\diamondsuit 2$ to the $\diamondsuit 9$, $\diamondsuit J$, $\diamondsuit 6$, and the $\clubsuit J$. It may look routine to duck, thereby giving declarer a guess in the suit, but what do we know about his hand? He has at least six hearts from the bidding, partner's opening lead marks him with a four card suit — leaving declarer with three, and partner has an even number of diamonds — he played the $\diamondsuit 9$ remember, leaving three for declarer. So if declarer has six hearts, three spades and three diamonds, he has only one club, and that looks awfully like being the king on this line of play doesn't it? So hop up with your ace and hope to find three more tricks elsewhere. [To Question](#)

3)

	♠ A64	
	♥ KQ95	
	♦ K74	
	♣ K74	
♠ 7		♠ Q10
♥ A63		♥ J10842
♦ 10863		♦ A95
♣ 108632		♣ AQJ
	♠ KJ98532	
	♥ 7	
	♦ QJ2	
	♣ 95	

Contract: 4♠

You lead the ♥A, ♥5, ♥2, ♥7, and must obviously switch at trick two, but to what? Dummy's minors are identical, and the only clue from your own holdings is that your diamonds are one shorter, suggesting that you have a better chance of cashing more tricks in that suit. All we know about partner is that he has an opening bid with five hearts. Wrong, we don't know that he has five hearts — partner can see from dummy that we couldn't care less about his heart length, so his play was a suit preference signal telling us that he would prefer a switch to the lower ranking suit — clubs. If he had wanted a diamond switch he would have dropped his highest heart. [To Question](#)



“Didn't you hear me bid spades?”

4.

	♠ Q942	
	♥ 64	
	♦ AKQ1064	
	♣ 9	
♠ A5		♠ 7
♥ A10975		♥ J832
♦ 5		♦ 9832
♣ AJ832		♣ K764
	♠ KJ10863	
	♥ KQ	
	♦ J7	
	♣ Q105	

Contract: 4♠

Partner's ♦5 lead is an obvious singleton. Clearly, he is not interested in your diamond length — he wants to know what to switch to when he regains the lead. Left to himself he may play you for the ♥K since you supported the suit. Play ♦2 at trick one, suggesting interest in the lower ranking sidesuit — clubs. If he wins the first spade and woodenly cashes the ♥A, you should again forget about giving count — play your ♥2 and hope he reads that as discouraging. If he doesn't manage to underlead ♣A after that, I should start looking for a new partner — this one is wasting your time.

As you can see from that small selection of problems, there is no such thing as the 'Universal Signal'. [To Question](#)

BRIAN SENIOR

THE BIG PEEP

*There were five cartridges in the chamber.
One in the dead man made six. That figured.*

IT was one of those bright clear mornings we sometimes get in early December and the sun was streaming through the glass-panelled top of my office door with the kind of vigor that makes the Californian climate the envy of the tourist trade. I was leaning back in my chair with a shot of bourbon in hand and the two letters which represented my morning mail lying unopened on my desk. Circulars was my guess though whoever had written "P. Highlow, Esq. Private Investigator, Los Angeles" in neat girlish handwriting knew all about the personal touch. Or maybe he just didn't have a typewriter. I used my paper knife on the flap and eased out the single folded sheet. I should have known better. It was written from an accommodation address in Pasadena and offered me a complete fingerprinting service for the bargain basement price of two hundred dollars. I wiped off my prints and lobbed it into the trash can. You get this sort of thing all the time. Some screwball even sent me a bullet-proof suit the other day. On approval. It's going to cost me close to fifteen dollars to mail it back!

Footsteps sounded in the passage outside and an authoritative rap preceded the entrance of a grim-looking caneswinger in his early fifties. He was expensively top-coated in vicuna and a brown homburg rested lightly on his head. His highly polished brogues gleamed on my threadbare carpet and I caught a glimpse of white spats though we hadn't had rain for three weeks. The unmistakable aura of gracious living had come through the door with him. I hoped it would stay behind after he left. I didn't think that it would.

"Highlow Investigations?" The scowl on his face would be a near permanent fixture. He looked like a bird who expected people to jump to attention every time he blew his nose. He was going to be disappointed in me.

"That's what it says on the door or don't you read large print?"

"I was expecting a less dingy looking establishment." His voice was low and sneering like an undertaker arranging a cheap funeral.

"Are you here on business or just window shopping?"

"That depends," he said. "Your name was recommended to me by one of my club members. From what I've seen so far I can't imagine why." His hand strayed in the direction of his breast pocket, hesitated a little, decided to take the plunge and emerged with a business card which he placed on the edge of my desk. I picked it up and read "Victor Dowsett, Belvedere Club, Primrose Valley, Los Angeles". The Belvedere is a plush, very exclusive gambling joint a few miles outside the city limits. High overheads and plenty of protection. With an outfit like that you never can tell. They can be making millions or have the bailiffs in every room making sure that no-one walks off with a roulette wheel under his arm.

"Sit down Mr. Dowsett. What can I do for you?"

"What are your terms?"

"To do what?"

"It's a very delicate matter. I should not be here were that not so." Nice use of the subjunctive. A Harvard man without a doubt.

"If it's that delicate," I said, "maybe you ought to see a lady detective."

"I'm not sure that I want to employ you. I don't like your manner".

"I'm not crazy about yours. Look, Mr. Dowsett, we can go on like this for hours and I have another letter to open. I get thirty a day plus expenses and I ask for three hundred dollars retainer if I don't like the client's face. Now either sit down and tell me what's on your mind or point yourself at the door and blow. It's the maid's day off."

He sat down of course. They always do when they know the law can't help. Or maybe it was my boyish charm.

He started with a lecture about personal integrity and how necessary it was for me to be able to respect a confidence. I reacted to that the way a stuffed parrot pecks at a handful of birdseed. He opened up some more and asked if I knew how to

play bridge. I told him I knew how to play bridge. Then it all came out.

It seems that a Mrs. Gail Honeywell, the young second wife of a retired oil executive, had been a frequent visitor to the Belvedere over the last six months. She liked to play high stake rubber bridge and was one of a few social members for whom a very high game was arranged every Thursday. The game usually started in the morning and continued until the early evening. Dowsett had fallen completely under the lady's spell and it was on her behalf that he was now paying me this visit. Mrs. Honeywell had the impression, real or imagined, that her husband, who often played in the same game, was systematically cheating her. "She's a nervous wreck," said Dowsett. "She's utterly convinced that something is going on but she can't spot what it is."

"Why doesn't she find another game?" was the obvious comment to make. I made it.

"High stake rubber bridge is the breath of life to her," said Dowsett. "She couldn't play for the stakes she likes anywhere except at the Belvedere. I try to keep her away from her husband as much as I can but sometimes there's only one table on these Thursday games and it's impossible."

"How does she play?" I asked.

"Extremely well. She's a natural card player but a heavy loser every time her husband is at the table. She can afford it of course, being an extremely wealthy woman in her own right, but that's hardly the point. Honeywell on the other hand is nowhere near her class as a player but is a consistent winner. It just doesn't add up."

"And what do you expect me to do about it, Mr. Dowsett?"

"Gail-er-Mrs. Honeywell thought..."

"Call her Gail. I'll be able to guess who you mean."

"We both thought that if you were to pay a discreet visit to the club you might be able to catch him cheating."

I needed the job the way Marconi needs sound waves but in my line of business it sometimes pays to play hard to get. This time was sometimes.

"I'm sorry. Peering out from behind a tuft of carpet at someone who's supposed to be dealing seconds is not my idea of a night out. Besides, I don't handle divorce business."

He bridled like a stallion. "Did I mention divorce?"

"You didn't have to. I just did it for you. Take a hypothetical case where the dame wants a divorce and her husband doesn't. A conviction for fraud will probably serve as sufficient grounds in any state. Certainly in California."

"You're pretty smart, Highlow. I have to admit that crossed my mind too. But all I need from you is corroboration that Honeywell is cheating. If he is, the Card Committee will be informed and any side effects need not concern you. If I could only persuade you to be my guest at the Belvedere you would be able to cut into the game. You would have every opportunity of observing whether Honeywell's success is due to skill or whether his wife has grounds for her allegations. And of course you would be amply remunerated for your services."

I took a quick glance at the unopened circular on my desk. Not another case in sight and my bank balance could certainly use a transfusion. I figured I'd been coaxed enough.

"O.K. Mr. Dowsett. You just hired yourself a detective. One thing though. I handle the case my way."

He smiled. He probably allowed himself at least two or three every week. He was beginning to act more and more like a human being.

"I'm sure you are very competent, Mr. Highlow."

Now that he had me on his payroll he somehow seemed more relaxed. He was positively genial as we made arrangements for my visit to his club which was to be at 11 a.m. prompt the following Thursday. Finally he took out his cheque book and hesitated.

"Will 500 dollars be satisfactory?"

"Sure. I'll be able to get the office some new curtains."

He wrote out the check and signed it with a flourish. That made it a good day — so far.

• • • • •

The Belvedere Club is on the western slopes of Primrose Valley, just off the main highway to Stilwell Heights. It was 10.50 a.m. on the following Thursday when I turned into the private drive which meandered through the thickish clumps of azalea and cinnamon bushes before eventually opening into the large forecourt of a Southern style residence. The club was a mass of white pillars and porticos and had at one time fittingly enough been the home of a Hollywood gossip columnist. Wide lawns fringed it on either side and through winter-thin hedges I caught a glimpse of a swimming pool and tennis courts. I eased my battered Cadillac into a few hundred square yards of parking space and cut the engine. Nearby a toughie in black leggings was hosing down a pale blue Packard. On seeing me he turned off the hose and moved lightly in my direction. As he approached I caught the dull glint of a gun butt against a shiny leather belt. I was meant to. I wound down the window and smiled at him. I made it a big wide friendly smile.

"Belvedere Club?" I asked.

He took his time about answering that one. Maybe it was a bit early in the day for trick questions. Anyway he had to look me over first. Then the car. Then back to me again. He made it finally.

"Are you a shamus?"

"I don't know. Am I?"

"I asked you a question, Mac."

"I didn't answer it."

"All right, wise guy. Show what says who you are."

I let him have a gander at my driver's- licence and handed him one of my calling cards — the one with the crossed sub-machine guns and electric chair motif. He took it, read my name off the front, turned it over and read the back which was blank, and handed it back to me.

"Wait here."

I watched him as he walked to the pillared entrance and spoke into a telephone near the door. He strolled slowly back to the car. He was in no hurry. He had plenty of time. It didn't matter about my time. He opened the car door and leaned in.

His breath smelled nice. Jack Daniels nice.

“You’ve been at the sideboard again,” I said.

“On your feet, bright boy.”

We walked together towards the main entrance and he unlocked the door and pointed to a wide curving staircase.

“Up the stairs, shamus, third floor.”

“Is the elevator on vacation?”

“Funny guy, eh? Only I don’t amuse easy.”

“Just like Queen Victoria.”

“Never heard of the dame.”

“I don’t expect miracles.”

I could feel his eyes boring into my back as I trod the wide expanse of stair carpet. His trigger-finger would be itching too. Punk!

I had nearly reached the third floor and was feeling every one of my thirty-eight years when a number of things happened at once. There was a sound like a small car backfiring and a large double door at the top of the stairs opened outwards. Two men rushed out at top speed and hurtled past me down the stairs. No-one was paying me extra money to stop express trains so I let them pass but hollered a weak, “Hey!” at their departing backs for appearances’ sake. The doors were still open so I walked up the rest of the stairs and into the room. As I entered neither of the two people still remaining there looked up — though only one of them was dead.

In an alcove on the left hand side of the room was the aftermath of a bridge game. An ungathered trick was lying face upwards on the table and the dummy hand was still exposed to view although dummy himself and the player who had been sitting on his left hand had left the table — hurriedly from all accounts. Their overturned chairs bore witness to that. For the declarer the game was not yet over. He was still holding his unplayed cards in his left hand and his head was thrown back contemplating the ceiling as though he hadn’t yet quite made up his mind what to play next but would pretty soon get around to it if only he could get some inspiration. On his left was a blonde. That would be Mrs. Honeywell. No slouch is Highlow

when it comes to identification parades. Sharp as a needle. At the moment Mrs. Honeywell was definitely not looking her best. Her mouth was open and she was staring fixedly into space. She seemed to be in a state of acute shock. Both hands were on the table. Her left hand was resting lightly on a neat stack of unplayed cards and her right hand was dangerously near something that gleamed pearl-like against the green baize. A trace of blue smoke hung lightly over the table. It did not smell like tobacco.

I took another look at the declarer. He wouldn't be playing to the next or any other trick. The bullet had penetrated his forehead leaving a neat round hole in its wake. It was as though a third eye had suddenly grown there forming a perfect triangle with its sightless brothers. The effect was grotesque, obscene, artificial. But the blood looked real.

Gingerly I picked up the gun in my display handkerchief and broke open the magazine. There were five cartridges in the chamber. One in the dead man made six. That figured. I had heard only one shot. I replaced the gun exactly as I'd found it and nearly overturned the table at the sound of glass breaking at the far end of the room. Dowsett was standing there, a tray of drinks at his feet. He walked over towards me his eyes wide in disbelief.

"Good God! She's shot him," he said.

"Yeah! Bit late on the scene of the crime aren't you?"

"I've been here since the game started. I left the room to fix drinks for everyone barely five minutes ago."

"And missed most of the action. How were things looking when you left?"

"Perfectly normal. Honeywell was just about to play a six heart contract. I saw the opening lead and left."

I looked quickly at the four hands and the two tricks on the table and grabbing a scorecard wrote down the following:

	♠ KQJ	
	♥ 1043	
	♦ AQJ10	
	♣ A72	
<i>Mrs Honeywell</i>		
♠ 965		♠ 10743
♥ K		♥ 86
♦ K9732		♦ 652
♣ Q865		♣ KJ104
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	<i>Mr. Honeywell</i>	
	♠ A82	
	♥ AQJ975	
	♦ 84	
	♣ 93	

“Is this the deal as far as you can remember it?”

“That’s it exactly. I was sitting behind Mrs. Honeywell. Her opening lead was a club. You can see what must have happened. Declarer won the opening lead in a dummy and at Trick two led a heart. He put up the ace and felled her singleton king. That’s the trick you can see face up on the table. He must have known the king was going to drop?”

“Yeah! So then she dropped him. You get a lot of this sort of thing in your club?”

“Don’t be ridiculous. I told you how things were with her. She was convinced her husband had been cheating her over the last few months. As far as she was concerned this was the last straw.”

I picked up Mrs. Honeywell’s hand again. Dowsett was still prattling on about unbearable tension and justifiable homicide but I was scarcely listening. I was busy trying to figure out how come a good player like Mrs. Honeywell had sorted the two of hearts in with her diamonds.

It was seven o’clock in the evening two days later. I was sitting in my apartment with my chessmen for company and a book of Capablanca’s most famous games open on the table. I was Capablanca and had just played white against the Russian

world champion. I beat him in forty-seven moves but he had me sweating a couple of times.

I was just about to beat him again when the doorbell rang loudly. It wouldn't be the law. Their usual method of signaling their arrival is to hammer on the wood paneling with their gun butts. I rose unhurriedly and went to answer it. It was Dowsett. He strode past me into the living room and uninvited parked himself in my best chair. Beautiful manners.

He seemed agitated. "They've charged her," he said. "They've charged her with first degree murder."

"What did you expect? They should let her off with a caution?"

"You might show a little more concern."

"I might. And then again I might not. In a case like this the cops usually go for the person they find nearest the body. If the party happens to have a testamentary interest and carries a loaded gun in her handbag it's jake by them."

"She denies it completely. She says she can't remember a thing that happened."

"It's her privilege."

"Have the police been to see you?"

"Why should they bother? It's open and shut as far as they're concerned."

"I had to make a statement. It occurred to me that they might want you to give evidence."

"Evidence of what?"

"Well you were there shortly after it happened. You heard the shot. You saw the deal where he dropped her singleton king instead of taking the heart finesse. That proves he must have seen her hand."

"Ah yes! the bridge hand. I was going to ask you about the bridge hand. It's been bothering me. But let's not talk about proof. All that playing the ace of hearts proves is that the declarer knew what he was doing. Anyone outside the beginner class can see that the contract depends on the favorable position of the king of diamonds. The declarer, with only two certain entries to his hand, should use them to take the diamond finesse twice and then discard his losing club on the ace. However, if Honeywell's

play was normal his wife's certainly wasn't, since I have yet to see a woman defending against a small slam who doesn't know she has the guarded king of trumps. Maybe it happens all the time. I've been around so little."

"What the hell are you talking about?"

I took out the scorecard on which I had jotted down the hands and showed it to him. "See Mrs. Honeywell's two of diamonds? Actually it's the two of hearts. The two of diamonds is in the East hand. Count the diamonds and the hearts for yourself."

"And just what is this supposed to prove?" His voice dripped icicles now.

"Either that Mrs. Honeywell deliberately played the king and used the hand as a pretext that her husband was peeping. That's one possibility. Or the complete deal was rigged after the husband was shot, by someone who botched it up and gave her hand a small heart instead of a diamond."

Dowsett rose to his feet. "That's a completely absurd speculation. How could there possibly be the time? You came into the room yourself virtually seconds after he was shot."

"Yeah! Like I said the hand bothers me."

"You must have made a mistake about the diamonds and hearts," he persisted. "Don't forget I was sitting behind Mrs. Honeywell when the hand was dealt. I could see that her king of hearts was blank."

"Her king of hearts was what?" I almost shouted. So that was how it was done. I wondered what I'd been using for brains all these years. I looked across at him.

"Mrs. Honeywell didn't murder her husband. He was shot with her gun maybe ten or fifteen minutes earlier while she was out cold in an anteroom doped to the eyeballs. He was shot by someone who carried the unconscious wife into the bridge room and sat her at the table in the place he had recently occupied himself. Someone who then rigged the deal to make it look like murder on her part and who waited until his gorilla downstairs warned him that I was on my way up because he wanted an independent witness. Someone who then fired a blank cartridge

from Mrs. Honeywell's gun and placed the gun on the table. That was the signal for his two stooges to take a powder. Well! Well! Even the L.A. Police Ballistics Department aren't going to find it too difficult to prove the gun was fired twice within a short space of time. And the cops are certainly not going to spend too much time looking for a second bullet that they know they won't find. Honeywell was killed by someone who wanted his wife's money and didn't mind putting her on a murder rap to get it. Maybe he thought she would beat the rap like the Bennett dame. Who knows how the mind of a man like that works? A man like you."

He was staring at me now with eyes blazing and a gun had suddenly grown into his fist. It pointed unwaveringly at my head. I half-eased myself out of my chair until it was in line with my chest. I was slow — painfully slow. The trouble with these bullet-proof suits is they are so goddam heavy.

TAIT



"You cheat, you're not playing the cards I gave you."

SKULDUGGERY

How to Catch the King of Trumps

YOU find yourself in 7♠ doubled by your left hand opponent. This is the trump suit.

♠ Q9872

♠ AJ10543

Clearly West has ♠Kx, do you see any way to make the hand legitimately or otherwise? Try this ...

As soon as dummy appears, say to partner:


“How can you bid 7♠ missing the ace and king of trumps?”

Then win the opening lead in hand and play a low spade towards the queen. A greedy West might conclude that his partner holds ♠A singleton and duck!



How to Find the Queen of Trumps

ANOTHER tricky play which was occasionally used when the trump suit was distributed in a fashion similar to that below:

A986

KJ107

Declarer, who could afford to lose no trump trick, would announce “One hundred for honors, partner” as soon as dummy was displayed. Whichever opponent was so unwise as to record 100 on the score sheet could sit back and fume as declarer successfully finessed his partner’s queen.

THE ELEVATOR

ALTHOUGH it was well past midnight, George Mittelman decided he still had time to read another chapter in his latest acquisition, *The Bridge Professionals*. His defense had reached new heights since he started reading it and he resolved to lend it to Fred Gitelman. He certainly needed it after his defense to 5♣ doubled the previous night. Still, at least it had given him the chance to use his latest insult. He would never have thought of “demented water buffalo”. He made a note to write a “Thank You” letter to Mark Horton.

As he tried to master the concept of a ‘Smith Echo’, he drifted off into a deep sleep. As so often seemed to be the case, he found himself dreaming of hands from the book. Images of the famous players he had been reading about drifted into his mind, Sabine van Auken, Danielle von Arnim, Dianna Gordon, Kerri Sanborn...Why, he wondered, did he never dream about Zia Mahmood, Jeff Meckstroth..?

He awoke with a start and found himself inside an elevator which was travelling upwards at tremendous speed. Suddenly, it came to a halt and the doors opened. An angelic looking girl motioned him to step down a long corridor at the end of which a distinguished figure was seated at a desk. As they drew near he looked up and spoke.

“Hello George, my name is Peter. Have a seat. I’ve been checking our records; almost everything seems to be in order.”

“In order! In order for what?”

“For you to enter the Celestial Gardens, George.”

“The Celestial Gardens? Then I’m d—”

Before he could finish, Peter continued.

“There is just one problem. I see that you have played a little bit of bridge.”

His mind in a whirl, he could only nod his agreement.

“According to our records, you have sometimes abused your partner, both at and away from the table. I am afraid the Head Gardener takes rather a dim view of such behavior, and you will have to make amends before you can be admitted. This

young lady will take you to the elevator. Get out at Floor -1430. There you will find someone waiting for you. You must then make love to them. Afterwards the elevator will bring you back here and we will complete the formalities. You cannot return until you have accomplished your task.”

Before he could utter any protest, he found himself being escorted to the elevator. Once inside, he noticed the numbering of the floors was rather unusual. Apart from the one he was on which was marked “Top”, and another labelled “Bottom”, all the other floors were indicated by numbers he knew only too well: -470, -670, and even -2000. He pressed the button marked -1430 as instructed and the elevator rapidly descended to the chosen floor. It came to a halt and the doors opened. A masterful voice commanded him to step outside.

He came out and the doors closed rapidly behind him. To say the occupant of the room was no vision of loveliness would be putting it mildly. He had once seen an old black and white film *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*, but even that had not prepared him for the sight he now beheld.

He instinctively turned around in an effort to leave, but the doors to the elevator were no longer visible. He glanced round the room and quickly established there was no means of escape. There was nothing for it but to comply with Peter’s instructions. As he began to remove his clothes, a hideous cackle filled the room...

It was a badly shaken George who tried to muster his thoughts as the elevator made its way upwards. The doors had re-appeared as soon as he had completed his dreadful task and he had hastily gathered his things and stepped inside. He noted that the “Top” button was illuminated, but curiosity got the better of him, and he pressed the button marked -1100. To his surprise the elevator slowed down and stopped. The doors opened for just a second and immediately began to close again. There was just enough time for him to see the occupants of the room — none other than Sharon Stone and Boris Baran. They were re-enacting one of the scenes from *Basic Instinct*.

When the elevator reached its destination, George was col-

lected and escorted back to Peter. He looked up from his desk and spoke.

"Well, I hope that wasn't too bad. If you will just sign these papers, I shall arrange for your transfer to The Celestial Gardens."

"Just a *minute*!" George exclaimed tersely. "I want to know why I had to make love to the monster, while Boris Baran gets Sharon Stone!"

"This was something you were not supposed to see," said Peter. "An unfortunate error by the computer."

"Never mind that, I demand an explanation!"

"It's quite simple." Peter replied. "You, George Mittelman, have done your penance and Sharon Stone must do hers."

MARK HORTON



A Long Way to Go

IN a small regional bridge tournament held in the mid-west a couple of New York experts arrived looking for cheap master points. In a pairs event, these experts were playing against a charming pair of elderly ladies. The first board was passed out and the second played by one of the dear old ladies in a contract of one no-trump. The experts quickly set this by one trick.

As there was the prospect of a considerable wait before the tournament director announced the next move one of the experts tried to make conversation.

"Where have you come from?" said one of the experts.

"Grand Rapids," was the reply.

"I see," said the expert. "It is rather sad, don't you think, to come all the way from Grand Rapids just to go down in one no-trump?"

"Yes," said the dear old lady. "In Grand Rapids, however, I would have been set by at least two tricks."

OMAR SHARIF'S BRIDGE CIRCUS VS. CROCKFORD'S CLUB

The Match of the Seventies

THOSE were the days! When bridge could command huge media attention and people flocked to see the best in action. Pick of the crop of staged matches was when Omar Sharif was in town. Victor Mollo takes up the story...

In the banqueting hall of London's Piccadilly Hotel, converted hastily and at great cost into a theater and film set, Omar Sharif and his famous Circus fought a rubber bridge duel at £1-a-point against Crockford's Club, championed by Britain's two outstanding players, Jeremy Flint and Jonathan Cansino.

Bridgerama, TV monitors and eight color cameras, trained on the star-studded audience no less than on the stage, captured every vibrant moment and recorded it for posterity.

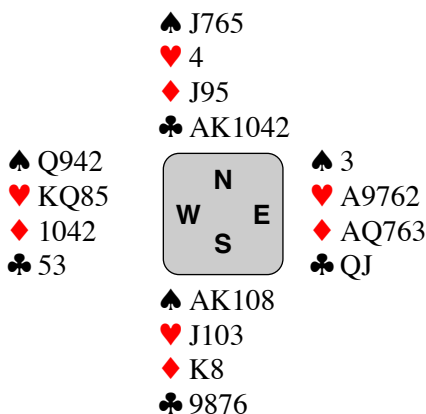
Never had bridge been played for such stakes. Never, since the golden age of Culbertson, did an event enjoy so much publicity.

The grand design, conceived by Omar Sharif, was to present bridge as a rich, exciting spectacle; to break through into television and so bring the game within the reach of millions who were still denied its joys.

After the first few rubbers, the Circus took the lead and continued steadily to forge ahead. Omar won £7,000 in stake money. (He lost £100,000 on a film which had grave technical faults and was never shown to the public.)

This was the most sensational hand of the entire match:

Game All. Dealer North.



West	North	East	South
<i>Delmouly</i>	<i>Cansino</i>	<i>Sharif</i>	<i>Flint</i>
	pass	1♥	pass
2♥	dbl	4♥	4♠
dbl	all pass		

Claude Delmouly opened the ♥K and continued with the ♥5. Flint ruffed in dummy and lost the trump finesse to the ♠Q. A diamond to Omar Sharif's ♦A and another diamond to the ♦K followed. After laying down the ♣A, on which Omar threw the ♣Q, Flint drew trumps and led a second club.

Should he finesse or play for the drop? Either he would make the contract or he would go four down. Allowing for side bets, some £2,000 hinged on Jeremy's guess. Alas, he finessed and made no more tricks.

Soon after this deal, Giorgio Belladonna, thirteen times champion of the world, gave a good example of his artistry in defense:

Love All. Dealer East.

	♠ 943	
	♥ AJ8	
	♦ A1083	
	♣ Q105	
♠ —		♠ KQ1072
♥ 6543		♥ Q102
♦ 9654		♦ Q72
♣ 98763		♣ AK
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ AJ865	
	♥ K97	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ J42	

West	North	East	South
		1♠	pass
pass	dbl	pass	pass
1NT	pass	pass	dbl
rdbl	pass	2♦	dbl
all pass			

Having picked up the worst hand of the match, Cansino did his best to wriggle out of 1♠ doubled. Hence the 1NT, followed by the SOS redouble.

Garozzo opened with the ♥7 to the ace and Belladonna returned a low trump. Winning with the jack, Garozzo continued with the king. Belladonna overtook it with the ♦A to play a third trump. Flint could now make his ♦Q. But beware of Italians bearing gifts. They can be more dangerous than the Greeks. Unless Belladonna 'squanders' his ace, declarer ruffs two spades in dummy, instead of one only, and he still scores his ♦Q by trumping a club.

There was a burst of applause from spectators. Watching on the close-circuit TV monitors, they admired not only Belladonna's technique in overtaking the king of trumps with the ace, but the lightning speed of his play.

BRIDGE WITH YOUR SPOUSE

IS it dangerous to play bridge with your spouse as your partner?

Of course not. If you're the typical married man or woman — amiable, cheerful, polite, good-humored, compassionate, even-tempered, soft-spoken, warm-hearted — there's no danger at all.

If your typical bridge session is punctuated by bellowing, shrieking and pounding on the table — you might be better off playing bridge with a partner who hasn't sworn to love, honor and follow suit. In a neighborly game of the Smiths against the Joneses, it might be wise for each woman to take her neighbor's husband as her bridge partner. The last four words are quite essential to my meaning: I am not recommending husband-swapping.

When somebody else's spouse makes a silly bid or play as your partner, you conceal a snicker as you think to yourself: "Is this the partner Jonesy is always bragging about? Why, my own Amanda can play rings around her!"

This philosophical discussion brings us to the hand which appeared recently in a monthly newsletter sent out by Summer Cotzin, a prominent bridge teacher of Worcester, Mass. Cotzin was reluctant to say where he got the hand, but we have tracked it down.

We discovered that a bridge expert's long-suffering wife was South. Her husband almost exploded when she jumped to six spades, and kept a grim silence as he put dummy down.

You might enjoy trying to make six spades on a low trump lead before you go on with the story. If you draw three rounds of trumps, ending in the dummy and then try the club finesse, you lose three tricks. If you take the first trick with the ten of spades and try the club finesse, West wins and leads another trump. Since you can ruff only one club, you still go down one.

After this magnificent unblock South could win a second round of trumps in her hand, clear the king and queen of hearts out of the way, and lead a low trump to dummy's ten. With the trumps drawn and the lead in dummy, she could (and did) cash the jack, ten, six of hearts to discard three clubs from her hand.

"Did I do something wrong?" she asked her husband innocently.

Perhaps fortunately, his answer is not recorded.

ALFRED SHEINWOLD



Egdirb

You've guessed it, bridge backwards...

IS your daily lunchtime rubber at the office becoming a dull routine? Then I recommend Egdirb! Learning the rules is no problem, for they are exactly the same as those of contract bridge — only through the looking-glass!

Shuffle the cards and place them on your left (if you're not of sense bereft...).

Cut away from the dealer.

Deal anti-clockwise.

Count four for a two, three for a three, two for a four, one for a five, for the cards rank in reverse order.

No trumps is the highest denomination — then clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades. So the Blue Club becomes the Blue Spade and 2♠ is Stayman; over 4NT, 5♠ shows no ace, etc. Club and diamond tricks are worth 30, hearts and spades 20.

Bid and play anti-clockwise. Makes finesses look most unusual!

Score as at contract, but tricks bid and made *above* the line, all else below. Impose special penalties (e.g. 100 non-vulnerable, 200 vulnerable) for mistakes such as bidding or playing out of turn, dealing or scoring incorrectly, making an illegal bid like one diamond over one club, or claiming a trick you haven't won.

It's not as easy as it may seem.

CHEATS SOMETIMES PROSPER

A CUT-IN rubber bridge game for high stakes was in progress. West was a good young player and he had been fortunate to cut one of the best rubber bridge exponents in the country as his partner. After a pass from South he found himself contemplating the following hand at adverse vulnerability:

♠ 62
♥ 6543
♦ AKQJ1042
♣ —

He decided that a barrage bid of three diamonds was necessary but this probably pushed the opponents into a small slam. The full bidding was as follows:

South	West	North	East
pass	3♦	dbl	pass
4♠	pass	4NT	pass
5♦	pass	6♠	all pass

It was obvious to West that there was little prospect of cashing two diamond tricks. So he conceived the brilliant idea of leading the two of diamonds. All that was necessary was to find his partner with the nine. When this card held the trick it would be obvious to an expert that the initial lead was serving a dual purpose. It was both an entry finding play and a suit preference indicator for a club return. Dummy went down with:

♠ AJ853
♥ KQ72
♦ 6
♣ AK4

Declarer played dummy's six of diamonds, East went to play a card but a draft blew it out of his hand and it fell to the floor.

Declarer simultaneously played the eight. East picked up his card and collected the trick and immediately returned the jack of clubs. Declarer tried to claim the contract but West ruffed. East said to declarer:

“You are very unlucky,” and showed him six more clubs thereby confirming the fact that West was void in the suit. He then swept up the cards and said “Your deal, partner, I am in a hurry to get away.”

West was still preening himself on his brilliant coup but his partner showed no sign of acknowledgement. The opponents were unaware of what he had accomplished but in deference to his partner he got on with the next hand. The rubber was soon concluded and after settling up the expert said “Goodnight,” and got up to leave. West followed him out into the street and said: “I do think you might have congratulated me when I found the only lead to beat that slam.” The expert replied: “You didn’t beat the slam, I did. As soon as I saw your two of diamonds I knew the true situation. Unfortunately, declarer had both the eight and nine of diamonds so I had to resort to misdirection and pick up the trick without his seeing the card I played. You almost spoiled the whole coup by your chatter. Why did you think I showed him my seven card club suit? If he had seen your hand, even he would have realized that his eight of diamonds had won the first trick. Let that be a lesson to you — never give a sucker an even break!”

Be warned!



“Did you suggest that I *tried* to see your hand?”

LAST BOARD

THE Vugraph commentator's voiced boomed across the audience. *Bermuda Bowl as good as over...three boards left...Challengers 33 imps down...even the Old Master's magic can't help now.*

The Old Master looked down at his cards, though their paste-board patterns were indelibly etched in his mind. Three boards. He glanced across at his partner. Zettner's brow was furrowed too. Despite some good pickups in this last session, they must still be at least 30 or more IMPs down. The champions, Frawley-Kinston, were silent — they knew the title was once again theirs.

Five years they had held the world crown, and the sixth was merely minutes away. 56 IMPs up — 16 boards to play. No team in the Bowl could recover that ground. Even counting some sure losses, they had to be well ahead.

As the Old Master waited for the next hand, the old question rose once more. Could this be the one, the perfect hand, the work of art? What was the perfect hand? Was Culbertson right? Was it nothing more than success stemming from opponent's errors? What was beauty in bridge anyway? Was it nine top tricks in three no trumps? Though he couldn't pin it down, he felt that there had to be something more, some intangible combination of power in the cards.

Suddenly, he felt very tired, recalling the dilemma in which he constantly found himself in his 40 years' playing. Percentages or elegance? Play to win or play for perfection? Before him rose the shades of games and tournaments lost because he could never quite resolve which he wanted. He remembered the hand that had cost him the Olympiad because he played for the squeeze rather than the finesse.

Frawley's pass woke him from his reverie. The dream of the perfect hand faded. His partner opened one diamond and Kinston interposed two hearts, a weak bid based on long hearts. The Old Master looked at his hand:

♠ J764
 ♥ —
 ♦ 9
 ♣ AKQJ9764

A straightforward three clubs? Four clubs to emphasize their solidity? The scientists would know — they would get to the cold grand slam or avoid the unmakeable small slam, but their tortuous approach repelled him — too often it pointed the way to astute defenders. Neither side was vulnerable.

“Six clubs.”

He smiled wryly, imagining what the commentators would be saying. A leap into the unknown. It could be disastrous, but it was no time to be dainty: the likely heart lead might give him time to work on the diamonds.

Frawley looked up quickly, paused slightly and passed. Zettner passed and Kinston doubled. Lightner. A diamond lead. A bad sign. All passed, and the two of diamonds was led.

	♠ AK3	
	♥ KJ85	
	♦ Q10875	
	♣ 8	
♠ Q92		♠ 1085
♥ A62		♥ Q109743
♦ J432		♦ AK6
♣ 1053		♣ 2

	♠ J764	
	♥ —	
	♦ 9	
	♣ AKQJ9764	

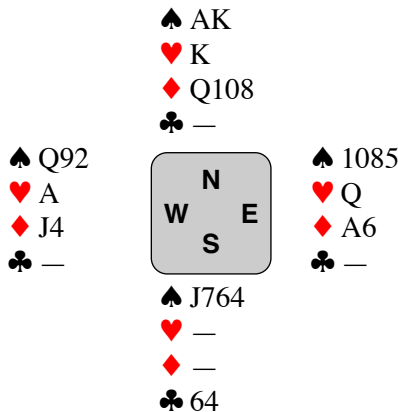
The Old Master called for a low diamond and the king of diamonds won.

In the Closed Room, North-South reached three no trumps and made 10 tricks, the commentator told the audience. If six clubs is made, the challengers will gain 12 IMPs, but unless East

makes the fatal ace of diamonds continuation, South will have to lose a spade ultimately. I predict East will exit with the two of clubs.

East thought for some time, then the trump appeared. The Old Master won and drew two more rounds of trumps, discarding two hearts from dummy. East discarded the seven-four of hearts. The Old Master stopped to think. East began with the ace-king of diamonds. Not the ace of hearts — that would be too strong for a weak jump-interpose. Six hearts headed by the queen. Kinston was strict about suit quality. With seven he would have bid three hearts, without the queen the suit would have been too poor. Probably he was 3-6-3-1 with 9 points. That must be all, for the queen of spades would also make the hand too strong for a ‘weak’ two hearts. So, West held the queen of spades, ace of hearts and the jack of diamonds. That might be just too much to manage.

Suddenly, the Old Master was no longer tired. As he pieced the play together, conviction refreshed him. He played three more rounds of clubs, pitching a spade, a diamond, and the jack of hearts. West threw a diamond and two hearts; East discarded hearts. This was the position:



The Old Master played another club and watched West writhe. If West discarded a spade the ace-king would drop the queen, while a diamond discard would allow the jack to be pinned. West studied for a long time and finally ditched the ace of hearts. But

the hand was an open book. A spade to dummy, and the king of hearts put West in the vice again. He threw the four of diamonds; the Old Master reached across and touched the queen of diamonds, murmuring softly, "The pin is mightier than the sword." As East covered and West dropped the jack, the hand was over.

A triple squeeze ... brilliancy ... Old Master still has spark of genius...ten years since he played internationally...included in Challengers team as sentimental gesture...long career...now proved back at best...assured of second in world...12 IMPs to Challengers...not enough to stave off defeat...

In the Open Room, Frawley growled bitterly at Kinston.

"A spade return at trick two beats it. Takes out his entry prematurely."

"Sure. And I also knew South didn't have four spades to the jack-nine, didn't I?"

The Old Master looked at them sorrowfully. Why was there always so much rancor at the top? He looked as Frawley sat, tight-lipped, stubborn — Frawley, contemptuous of opponents and partners alike — acknowledged as the world's best, yet unable to bear losing a game or a match.

These thoughts were brushed aside as the Old Master picked up the cards. Second-last hand. At least they had made a fight of it. They were vulnerable against not. His partner, dealer, passed. So did Kinston. He looked at

♠ A

♥ AK62

♦ KJ1092

♣ K43

and opened one diamond.

Frawley cleared his throat. "Three spades."

pass from Zettner, pass from Kinston, what now? "Four hearts."
"Four spades."

The Old Master looked at Frawley curiously. A bead of perspiration rested on Frawley's brow. Was he shaken, that fine bridge mind, the leading theorist in the world? Frawley, who had expounded 'pre-empt what you are worth', breaking his

own tenets? Three spades, then four spades. Why not four spades at once? The Old Master noticed a slight tremble in Frawley's left hand.

Zettner, patting his hair nervously tugging at a loose strand, pondered, then bid five hearts. Kinston's double was loud and crisp, and everyone passed. Frawley pulled out the king of spades, and dummy came down.

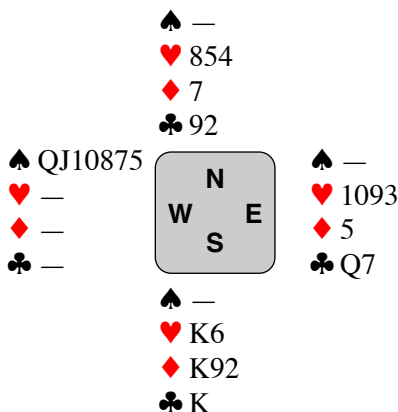
	♠ 63	
	♥ J854	
	♦ AQ7	
	♣ J1092	
♠ KQJ108752	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 94
♥ 7		♥ Q1093
♦ 86		♦ 543
♣ 85		♣ AQ76
	♠ A	
	♥ AK62	
	♦ KJ1092	
	♣ K43	

Closed Room...four spades doubled...two down...plus 300 to Champions...headed for big swing...South must lose two hearts and a club at least...five diamonds a chance...five hearts hopeless...bad split...

The Old Master surveyed the two hands. East would obviously have four trumps at least, maybe five. Prospects were not good. Winning the ace of spades, he played the jack of diamonds. Frawley played the eight of diamonds as a matter of doubleton reflex, then pulled his hand away as if burnt. The Old Master suddenly saw a glimmer of hope as dummy seven of diamonds became a third entry. Could West have a key singleton in trumps?

Dummy's ace of diamonds won and the jack of hearts was played. The Old Master felt his heart pounding...was there a chance after all? If East held Q1097 of hearts, all was lost. The queen topped the jack, the Old Master played his ace and looked at Frawley's card. The seven of hearts.

The first hurdle was over. Would the other cards behave also? The Old Master moved into the strange world of bridge intuition. Lines of play ran through his mind, the cards swirled into patterns, disappeared, regrouped, blended into a position six tricks away. The Old Master, satisfied with his plan, played the ten of diamonds to the queen and called for dummy's jack of clubs. Kinston played low. So did the others. Another club from dummy. This time Kinston took his ace and forced South with a spade return. The Old Master ruffed with the two of hearts and reviewed the situation.



No, there was no flaw. It had to be right. He played the king of clubs and crossed to dummy's seven of diamonds with his well-preserved deuce. The Old Master carefully picked over the end position he had seen before. There was no escape.

A small trump was played from dummy. East sat there thinking. He would have to split the ten-nine, thought the Old Master; if not, I win with the six of hearts, cash the king of hearts, and play a diamond, discarding my losing club from dummy.

Kinston thought interminably, finally, the nine of hearts. Declarer played the king of hearts, and then, luxuriously, treasuring the touch, the Old Master played a diamond and put the eight of hearts on from dummy.

Brilliant timing and endplay, the Rama commentator shrieked

shrilly. If East overruffs and plays a club, South ruffs in hand and ruffs the last diamond in dummy. If East overruffs and plays a trump, South wins and his hand is high. And if East discards his club, dummy's club promotes South's six of trumps en passant...

In the Open Room, the Old Master wondered what was happening. Had the commentators seen the position as he had? Was there any chance of snatching victory from the jaws of defeat? The last two hands had to be gains, but how close was the fight? He could not hear the commentator.

...Plus 850 to Challengers...11 IMPs...exciting finish... Champions still 10 IMPs up...additional drama...youth versus age...fantastic finale...

The audience hushed as the lights on the Vugraph board flickered, then lit up the last hand.

	♠ AQ7	
	♥ AK106	
	♦ 86	
	♣ AKJ4	
♠ 10854	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div>N</div> <div style="display: flex; width: 100%;"> <div style="width: 33%;">W</div> <div style="width: 33%;">S</div> <div style="width: 33%;">E</div> </div> </div> </div>	♠ K9
♥ J753		♥ 982
♦ 7		♦ K942
♣ 10972		♣ Q653
	♠ J632	
	♥ Q4	
	♦ AQJ1053	
	♣ 8	

The commentator broke into an excited jabber. *Closed Room ...Champions overboard...reached seven no trumps...trying to duplicate probable gamble in Open Room...two down... Challengers have chance...must stay out of slam...game gives them 11 IMPs and victory...slam doomed...bad diamond break ...spade finesse loses...*

In the Open Room, the silence was almost unbearable. The Old Master knew what the others were thinking. Last board. How small was the margin? Was there a chance or was the match

already over? The audience already knew, but the players had to gauge the results for themselves. He looked at his hand. Six diamonds and four spades. The opposition was vulnerable, they were not. He was second to speak. The age-old questions arose, to pre-empt or not to pre-empt? The 'authorities' all said not to pre-empt with a side four-card major, also that a secondhand pre-empt was less desirable since one opponent had already passed. He made up his mind. The thought of the perfect hand casually flitted across his mind. He dismissed it as Kinston passed quickly.

'Three diamonds.'

Pass from Frawley, nervously. Zettner sat for an eternity. The Old Master knew he must be thinking about slam chances, and was pleased his diamond suit was respectable. Pre-empts at favorable vulnerability can often be filthy.

As the minutes toiled on, the audience became restless.

Three no trumps...why doesn't he bid three no trumps?...how can he think of a slam with nothing in diamonds?...five diamonds is all right too...

"Six diamonds."

The audience groaned.

Three passes followed quickly. Frawley sat for some time considering his lead, then the ten of clubs hit the table. The Old Master surveyed the dummy and his own hand.

The slam was reasonable. Had they reached it in the other room? If he didn't lose a diamond trick, the slam was home. With a diamond loser, he still had chances — the jack of hearts might fall in three rounds, the spade finesse was there, and the queen of clubs might appear. He looked at the lead. The ten of clubs. Had Frawley led away from the queen? Would the club finesse work at trick one? Not a tempting lead against a small slam. The Old Master played the king of clubs and took the diamond finesse. The queen of diamonds held. He played the four of hearts to the king and played another diamond to the jack. Frawley showed out.

If he makes the slam, Challengers win by 4 IMPs...if he goes down, Champions have lucky escape...

The Old Master searched his mind. It was merely a matter of taking all the chances in the right order. One of them would probably

succeed. But the quest for perfection tortured him. Painfully, he scanned dummy again. Once more he searched the position, wondering why he was hesitating, why he did not continue.

Suddenly he saw it, and everything else faded except the patterns of force generated by the cards as they glided into their predestined place. Again the testing of each play, racked by the error of his original analysis, soothed by what he could see unfolding before him. Finally, he played the ace of diamonds, discarding dummy's low spade. Then the queen of hearts, dropping dummy's six on it.

♠	AQ
♥	A10
♦	—
♣	AJ4
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> N W E S </div>	
♠	J632
♥	—
♦	1053
♣	—

The Old Master considered the final position cherishingly. The aces...the master cards...one in each suit in dummy...each supported by a different lower honor, side by side...each tenace agape waiting for East to yield up the twelfth trick...each suit having a finesse available in it...but the only finesse taken successfully turning out not to gain a trick...the suits blending together, in harmony and union, to succeed no matter where the enemy cards lay.

The victory was his. He had but to take it. With trembling fingers he took the ten of diamonds, putting East on lead, softly asked for dummy's four of clubs, and whispered gently to the opposition a single word.

“Checkmate.”

RON KLINGER

BOB HAMMAN'S HAND

MOST World Championship finals are anti-climaxes. The quality of bridge is variable, to say the least, and one or other team often runs away with the match.

It is generally accepted that the Olympiad Final of 1980, between France and the United States was the best played ever. Here is how the commentators summed up the performance of the teams:

“This was one of the best played matches in the history of bridge. A team is considered to have played well if they hold their opponents to less than 2 IMPs a board. The Americans held the champions to 1.6 per board, but they lost by 20 IMPs. France held USA to 1.4 IMPs per deal, a truly remarkable performance... They didn't play perfect bridge in the final, only superb, only excellent. The French are true champions.”

One particular hand stands out in the memory, and we will pose it to you as a lead problem.

You are Bob Hamman (USA) sitting East, holding:

♠ AKJ876
♥ A107632
♦ —
♣ 2

This is the auction:

West	North	East	South
pass	1♦	2♦ ¹	2♥
4♠	4NT	5♠	6♣
pass	6♦	6♠	7♦
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

(1) Showing both majors.

A lot of action, but can you crown your efforts with the winning lead? To add spice, the correct major suit ace would win

the Olympiad whereas the wrong choice would leave the French as Champions.

This was how you might have argued...

Partner has jumped to 4♠, and therefore is likely to hold longer spades than hearts. Also, the opponents are usually prepared for the lead of your suit.

After due consideration, he went for ♥A.

	♠ 10	
	♥ KQ9	
	♦ A109832	
	♣ K98	
♠ Q9532	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AKJ876
♥ J854		♥ A107632
♦ Q64		♦ —
♣ 7		♣ 2
	♠ 4	
	♥ —	
	♦ KJ75	
	♣ AQJ106543	

Declarer ruffed, drew trumps (guessing that West had length from the auction) and cashed his clubs. France gained 19 IMP when they would have lost 9 if East led ♠A. The difference was more than the margin of victory.



WATCH THEIR DISCARDS

Terence Reese was a great advocate of watching the defensive discards like a hawk. To see why, read the following article by Frank Stewart on the subject from 1986.

MOST declarers pay far too little attention to the defenders' discards — they don't realise just how revealing discards can be. The inferences that become available are usually very sound. The average defender's discards are either made (1) with little pause for thought, or (2) after some protracted study — and either way they will often follow a logical pattern. (Review your own defensive discarding on a few hands and you may see what I mean.)

The trick to drawing helpful inferences from a defender's discards is to put yourself in his place and try to build a picture of his hand that is consistent with his play.

	♠ 654	
	♥ 1064	
	♦ AQ109	
	♣ 654	
♠ K97		♠ QJ10
♥ 8		♥ Q7532
♦ 872		♦ KJ65
♣ KQJ1083		♣ 9
	♠ A832	
	♥ AKJ9	
	♦ 43	
	♣ A72	

South opened one no trump and all passed. West led the king of clubs, ducked. The queen of clubs came next and East showed out, pitching a low diamond. Declarer won the ace of clubs and, reasonably enough, decided to go after diamonds. A finesse of the diamond ten lost to East's jack and South had to win the ace when the queen of spades was returned.

Now declarer hopefully cashed the top hearts (in case the queen of hearts fell), but West discarded a spade on the second round. When West followed low on the second diamond lead, declarer gave the matter some intense thought. Finally, he took a second finesse — and lost the rest of the tricks!

Declarer might have relied on a heart finesse, if he had given more thought to East's diamond discard at trick two. Since declarer needed three diamond tricks, his diamond finesse would be right only if West started with Kxx. But with Jxxx, would East have pitched a diamond early, certainly giving away a diamond trick if declarer held the king? East should really pitch a low heart to negate such an inference.

Similarly, an early discard by a defender may be taken to suggest *length* of his suit.

AK42



Q3

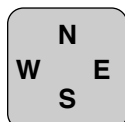
If somebody discards a low card in this suit as declarer is cashing winners elsewhere, it can be assumed that the defender does not have four cards in the suit. He may have three or, more likely, five (and has thrown his 'idle fifth' card, as it's called) — but a discard from four, which clearly might cost a trick, would be last on his list.



"Having no hearts either?"

How would you play this deal?

♠ 853
♥ AK43
♦ QJ54
♣ 87



♠ K104
♥ 87
♦ AK72
♣ AQ43

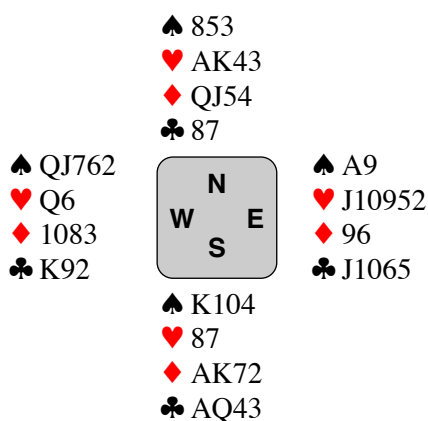
West	North	East	South
pass	3NT	all pass	1NT

Opening lead: ♠6

East takes the ace of spades and returns the nine. You win and West drops the two. When you cash your diamond tricks, East follows twice and discards the jack of hearts and a low club. West follows three times and pitches a low club. How do you continue?

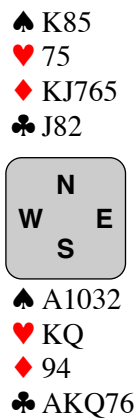
East's discard of the jack of hearts is interesting. Certainly it denies the queen, but it also suggests that he had at least five hearts — with only four he would wish to keep as many hearts as dummy to avoid losing a trick if you had the queen. You cash the top hearts, extracting West's cards in the suit, and exit with a spade.

The full deal is:



West is duly endplayed to lead away from ♣K.

The next deal is from an international competition:

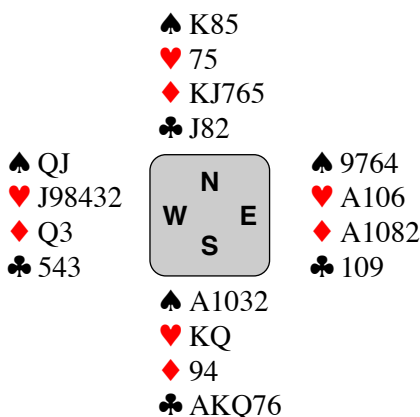


West	North	East	South
			1♣
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	2♣	pass	2NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

West leads the four of hearts. East wins the ace and returns the ten. You cash five club tricks. West follows to three rounds, then throws a diamond and a heart. East pitches three diamonds. When you lead a spade towards the king, West contributes the queen. Do you lead a spade to your ace, or finesse the ten?

Gerard Desrousseaux of France faced this problem in the 1969 World Championship. He led a spade to the ace, disregarding any implications of *restricted choice*, and dropped West's jack.

Desrousseaux acted on a simple inference — *no spade had been discarded on his right*, and East would have had an easy spade pitch had he started with five cards in that suit. The full deal:



In the same position at the other table, the American declarer finessed the spade ten.

To give expert defenders their due, they are aware of the information their discards reveal and occasionally go out of their way to mislead declarer.

This fine deal arose in the 1967 World Championship.

	♠ K86	
	♥ A107	
	♦ AK1043	
	♣ J5	
♠ 975		♠ J3
♥ Q963		♥ K854
♦ 8		♦ QJ975
♣ 107643		♣ Q2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>	
	♠ AQ1042	
	♥ J2	
	♦ 62	
	♣ AK98	

Pietro Forquet and Benito Garozzo of Italy, North/South, bid to six spades. West for the United States, Norman Kay, led the diamond eight, won by dummy's ace. Garozzo gave the hand a typical meticulous play. He led the jack of clubs, covered by the queen and ace, and played his other diamond toward dummy.

If West had ruffed this, declarer would have had only to guess the club position to make the slam. (Dummy would follow with a low diamond and Garozzo would subsequently throw his heart loser on the diamond king.) However, Kay not only refused to ruff, he threw a heart, not his worthless fifth club, for fear of suggesting the club position to declarer.

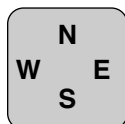
Garozzo won dummy's king of diamonds and still could have made the contract with an inspired guess.

In practice, he very reasonably tried a club to the nine. Kay won and alertly returned a club, dooming the slam.

Terence Reese won a Bols Bridge Tip award a few years ago for a good point on drawing inferences from the defenders' discards.

Reese's theme is seen in this problem.

♠ J64
♥ K64
♦ J92
♣ KJ82



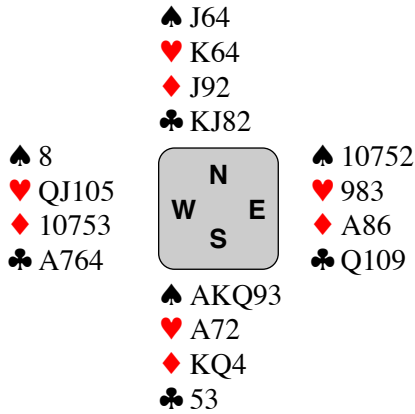
♠ AKQ93
♥ A72
♦ KQ4
♣ 53

West	North	East	South
			1♠
pass	2♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

West leads the queen of hearts. You win with the king and draw four rounds of trumps. East follows while West discards the four of clubs, five of hearts and six of clubs. When you lead the king of diamonds, East wins and returns a heart, West playing the ten as you take your ace. Both opponents follow to the diamond jack and queen. When you lead a club toward dummy, West plays the seven. What do you do?

You should play the club king. West threw two clubs away early. Is that more consistent with a holding of A764 or Q764? Also, how do you think West would discard with four clubs to the queen and four diamonds to at best the ten?

The complete deal:



So when you declare your next hand, be a hawk and watch those discards.

FRANK STEWART



KINGS, QUEENS AND PLAYING CARDS

IT is thought that playing cards were invented in China, 'dotted cards' first appearing in A.D. 1120; they were devised for the amusement of the Emperor's various concubines. But other scholars point out that the Chinese originated paper money in the seventh century and, being great gamblers, they would shuffle this money and invent 'card games'. Other countries, notably India, Egypt and Italy, have produced their own packs of cards, but the forefather of our present pack came from France. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries France became the chief card-making nation, exporting widely to many European countries. To a large extent the popularity of the French cards was due to their simplicity. Each pack had four suits divided into two red and two black. Being combined with 'pips' they were easy and cheap to produce. There were 52 cards in each pack divided into four suits, each with an ace, three coat-cards (now incorrectly known as court cards) and numerals two to ten. The coat-cards consisted of a king, a queen and a valet (knave). These had names appearing on them, and it is thought that they represented well-known personages in history, as follows:

KINGS

Spades: David — typifying Charles VII. David, King of the Jews, obtained his crown after persecution by Saul, but was troubled by the revolt of his son, Absalom. Charles VII, disinherited by his mother, Isabel of Bavaria, re-conquered his kingdom, but was later troubled by the wickedness of his son, Louis XI.

Hearts: Charlemagne, Emperor of the Franks.

Diamonds: Caesar, the Roman General and First Consul.

Clubs: Alexander, the Greek Emperor.

QUEENS

- Spades:* Pallas, the Goddess of War and Wisdom, who observed strict celibacy. Perhaps she was used as a tribute to the Maid of Orleans. If this were so, it must have been after 1421, and probably before the end of Charles VII's reign in 1461.
- Hearts:* Judic — representing Isabel of Bavaria, wife of Charles VI and mother of Charles VII.
- Diamonds:* Rachel — representing Agnes Sorel, Mistress of Charles VII and famed for her beauty.
- Clubs:* Argine (an anagram of Regina) — representing Mary of Anjou, wife of Charles VII.

KNAVES

- Spades:* Ogier, a Danish Champion. There was a French Ogier, but he was not a man of distinction.
- Hearts:* La Hire, the famous Etienne de Vignolles who, by his exploits, did so much to sustain the throne of Charles VII. There is a story that, when the English were holding Paris and nearly half of France, Charles VII showed La Hire preparations for an intended ballet, based on the game of Piquet, and asked his opinion. La Hire replied, "By my faith, Sire, I think it is impossible to lose a kingdom more gaily."
- Diamonds:* Hector la Galard, famous captain of Charles VII.
- Clubs:* Lancelot, one of the Paladins of Charlemagne's Court.

Regarding the above, the Encyclopedia Britannica of 1839 describes the French Kings thus: "The names of the four Kings were David, Alexander, Caesar and Charles...and represent the four monarchies of the Jews, Greeks, Romans and Franks under Charlemagne."

The original coat-cards gave full justice to the glory of the dress and accoutrements of the people depicted. However, around 1880 reversible cards became standard and so the artistic designs were sacrificed for the benefit of the card players.

It is probable that all the Kings and Queens who have sat on the throne of England since the invention of playing cards have played one game or another. Some have even appeared on decks printed in that country. Taking them in chronological order, Queen Elizabeth I, who reigned from 1558 until 1603, appeared on two cards from the Spanish Armada (1588).

As part of England's preparations for the forthcoming battles, the Archbishop of Canterbury had been instructed to raise part of the Queen's bodyguard at Tilbury. The Queen went by barge from St. James' Palace to Tilbury, and she inspected the 560 cavalry before making a lengthy speech.



King James I (1603-1625) had to contend with the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. The card reproduced below shows the King addressing Parliament on 9 November.

Charles I (1625-1649) had to be depicted as he was losing his head, but perhaps the surprising feature is that the card depicts Oliver Cromwell, who supposedly prayed throughout the night of 29 January, 1649, after signing the King's death warrant.



Charles II (1660-1685) survived more than one assassination attempt.



The eight of diamonds shows Thomas Pickering hoping to be able to shoot the King in St. James' Park in March, 1678.

The queen of diamonds, which comes from a different deck, depicts the proposed scene of the murder, the conclusion of the Rye House Plot of 1683. The King had gone to Newmarket to watch the races. His return to London by stage-coach necessitated passing along a narrow land barely 25 feet wide, with high banks and hedges on either side (though the card does not show this). It was intended that a cart would be overturned in the narrowest part of the lane to stop the King's coach. Then the members of the gang would carry out their prescribed jobs, with Richard Rumbold, a one-eyed ex-Roundhead soldier, being given the task of shooting the King. However, there was a fire in Newmarket that forced the King to return to London several days earlier than the plotters had anticipated, and this almost certainly saved his life.

The next monarch on the throne was King James II (1685-1688), who unsuccessfully tried to keep England Catholic.





Opponents of the King invited the Protestant William of Orange, James' son-in-law, to come to England to assume the crown. This he did, so James was forced to flee London, eventually going to Ireland.

William arrived in London on 18 December, 1688 as depicted in the five of diamonds given below.

William III was succeeded on his death by Queen Anne, who reigned until 1704. The king of hearts shows her addressing the House of Lords on 11 March, before the coronation on 23 April (the queen of hearts).

Moving on to the more recent Kings and Queens of England, the only one to have played bridge in public was Edward VII. He was particularly enthusiastic about the game, it often being played at house parties he attended.

No member of the present Royal Family plays bridge, but they all enjoy a game of racing demon. The Queen plays quite complicated games of solitaire, and has in the past played six-pack bezique.

PHILLIP ALDER

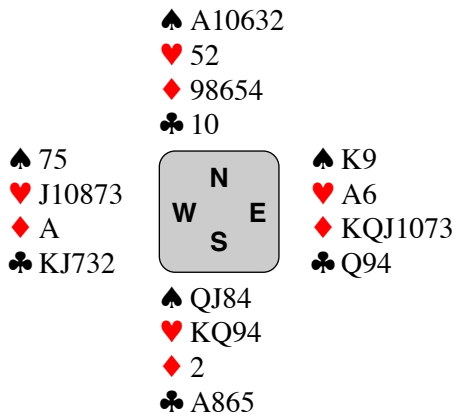
A DRAMATIC RECOVERY

THERE have been several great revivals over the years, but none more so than in the 1982 Gold Cup, Britain's top KO team competition.

With just eight boards remaining in the Semi-Final, Niblett (Burn, Cliffe, Hirst, Elsworth) led Haase (Cuthbertson, Goldberg, Shenkin, Coyle) by 51 IMPs, or about five games. This is the story, as told by *BRIDGE Magazine*, of 'what happened next'...

Eight boards left, Niblett ahead by 51 IMPs; would Haase concede? No, on we went. The first board was a boring four hearts made with an overtrick when the trumps broke two-two. But then came seven boards that will go down in bridge history.

Board 58. *Game All. Dealer East.*



West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
		1♦	dbl
1♥	1♠	3♦	4♠
all pass			

Even when one has to push a little when that much behind,

the four spade bid is unnecessary; partner will bid the game if it has a prayer. As it was, though, there seem only to be three losers, but the bad red-suit breaks meant that there were only nine tricks; one down.

In the Closed Room North bid aggressively, no doubt trying to duplicate any pushing at the other table.

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
		1♦	dbl
1♥	2♠	3♦	4♠
dbl	all pass		

Again one down and 3 IMPs to Haase. The lead was down to 48 when board 59 was put on the table of the Open Room.

Love All. Dealer South.

	♠ 92	
	♥ KJ975	
	♦ K74	
	♣ Q96	
♠ K1075		♠ J8
♥ AQ102		♥ 63
♦ J93		♦ A82
♣ A10		♣ KJ8753
	♠ AQ643	
	♥ 84	
	♦ Q1065	
	♣ 42	

West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
			2♦ ¹
dbl	2♠	3♣	all pass

(1) Multi, showing a weak two bid in a major.

Cuthbertson started mixing it by opening a Multi with only a five-card suit, Niblett doubled to show, in principle, a balanced 13-16 points, and Haase showed interest in continuing opposite a heart suit. Elsworth competed with three clubs, and not unnaturally, Niblett passed. After a heart lead the declarer lost one spade, one heart and two diamonds to make his contract exactly.

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
1NT	pass	3♣	pass
3NT	all pass		pass

Three clubs was invitational, and after this sequence Cliffe had no reason not to lead a heart. Declarer ended with ten tricks: one spade, two hearts, a diamond and six clubs. That was 8 IMPs to Haase and the lead was down to 40.

This was the next board.

North/South Game. Dealer West.

	♠ 10632	
	♥ A865	
	♦ 954	
	♣ 64	
♠ 97		♠ Q
♥ KQ94		♥ J1032
♦ Q1083		♦ AKJ72
♣ Q98		♣ 1053
	♠ AKJ854	
	♥ 7	
	♦ 6	
	♣ AKJ72	

West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
pass	pass	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	pass	6♠
all pass			

After the two club opening bid, the negative reply and the natural rebid, Haase would have bid three clubs as a second negative, so three spades promised some values. There was no point in using Blackwood when so many points down as there was a chance of making twelve tricks even if two aces were missing.

Declarer won the heart lead with dummy's ace, drew one round of trumps, played two top clubs and then claimed: +1430.

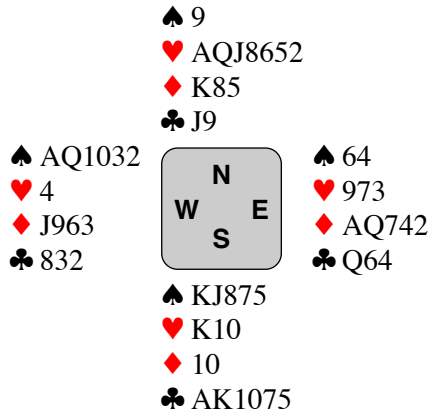
In the Closed Room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
1NT(!)	pass	3NT	4♠
pass	pass	5♦	all pass

Shenkin chose a good moment to open one no trump without the values and Coyle did well not to use Stayman. Over five diamonds South should either double to show good high cards, which North should convert to five spades, or bid five spades himself. If Cliffe had bid five spades Burn would probably have gone six.

As it was, though, the defense took one spade, one heart, a heart ruff, two clubs and a club ruff to defeat the contract by four: +200, but a loss of 15 IMPs. Only 25 IMPs in it and still four boards to go.

Game All. Dealer North.



West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
	1♥	pass	1NT
2♥	dbl	3♦	4♣
pass	4♥	all pass	

One no trump was alerted and Shenkin thought it was the forcing no trump response to a five-card major opening, whereas it was in fact showing five or more spades. (One spade would have been equivalent to a forcing no trump.) So Shenkin came in with two hearts to show a spade-minor two-suiter! However, the final contract seemed to be normal! But Haase made a well-timed operation in the other room.

West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
	1♦(!)	pass	2♣
pass	2♥	pass	2♠
pass	4♥	pass	6♥
all pass			

This looked like the end of the charge. Little did we know! Elsworth, in an effort to protect his diamond holding, led a trump! Declarer drew trumps, ran the jack of clubs, played a club to the ten and threw losers away on the clubs. Twelve tricks made and 13 IMPs gained. The margin was only twelve points with three boards to go.

Love All. Dealer East.

	♠ AKQ6	
	♥ KQJ105	
	♦ 2	
	♣ Q84	
♠ J75	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 82
♥ A963		♥ 82
♦ K106		♦ 854
♣ 1092		♣ AKJ653
	♠ 10943	
	♥ 74	
	♦ AQJ973	
	♣ 7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
		pass	1♠(!)
pass	4NT	pass	5♦
pass	6♠!!	all pass	

Cuthbertson psyched in the second seat, always the worst position for a bent bid, especially as they were clearly back in the match. Then Haase compounded the felony by asking for aces, finding two were missing but bidding the slam anyway! John Collings pulled off that stunt once but there were two different considerations: his hand was not going down in the dummy, so the defense would not know that it had two aces (that is why Haase should have bid six hearts if he wanted to gamble), and he had twelve tricks if they did not cash. Here,

even after a diamond lead, there was virtually no play for six spades: declarer needed the king-doubleton in diamonds and the jack-doubleton in spades. (The one advantage of Haase's action was that it kept the momentum up; it kept the adrenalin flowing.)

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
		1NT(!)	pass
pass	dbl	pass!	pass
rdbl	pass	pass!	3♦
all pass			

Another incredible auction! If Shenkin passes out one no trump doubled they score at least 180, and probably 280, and would have gained on the board! But Burn judged to pull the redouble, Cliffe decided not to bid on and the game was missed. Ten tricks were made and Niblett gained 5 IMPs to increase his lead to seventeen with two boards to go.

North/South Game. Dealer South.

	♠ 10742	
	♥ 98642	
	♦ J	
	♣ AK3	
♠ Q3		♠ J8
♥ AKJ107		♥ Q53
♦ A8		♦ 95432
♣ Q975		♣ J84
	♠ AK965	
	♥ —	
	♦ KQ1076	
	♣ 1062	

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
			1♠
dbl	3♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

Twelve tricks made. Would Haase and Cuthbertson bid their fourth consecutive slam? Of course!

West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
			1♦
dbl	rdbl	pass	2♠
pass	4♣	pass	6♠
all pass			

Cuthbertson's two spade bid showed a two-suiter, usually with five spades and six diamonds, and limited high-card values.

Declarer ruffed the heart lead and played a diamond. West went in with the ace and played another heart, but declarer ruffed, drew trumps and claimed. 13 IMPs and only four behind with one board to go. Could they do it? The few spectators who had remained to see the closing stages of a match that had seemed over long ago could hardly believe what they were witnessing: it was another slam!



"Pass? You *cannot* be serious!"

East/West Game. Dealer West.

	♠ 97	
	♥ A84	
	♦ A1096	
	♣ A742	
♠ J8632		♠ 105
♥ 32		♥ Q975
♦ 8		♦ KQJ7543
♣ K8653		♣ —
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W S E </div>	
	♠ AKQ4	
	♥ KJ106	
	♦ 2	
	♣ QJ109	

West	North	East	South
<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Cliffe</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Burn</i>
pass	1NT	2♣	dbl
rdbl	pass	2♦	3NT
all pass			

Two clubs was Asptro, showing hearts and another suit; Shenkin's redouble indicated at least five clubs. Perhaps with all these high cards Burn should have given his partner a chance to double two diamonds, especially at the prevailing vulnerability. As it was he made twelve tricks: three spades, four hearts, a diamond and four clubs.

West	North	East	South
<i>Niblett</i>	<i>Haase</i>	<i>Elsworth</i>	<i>Cuthbertson</i>
pass	1♦	pass	1♥
pass	2♥	pass	6♥
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

In fact it was silly that neither North nor South redoubled; if the contract was going down they were not going to win the match.

Niblett led his singleton diamond, declarer won with the ace and played a heart to the jack. At this point he should have worked out that East had a club void for his Lightner double, and, as he could not make it if the trumps were five-one, he should have drawn all the trumps and taken the club finesse. But in fact he led the queen of clubs at trick three. West covered with the king and East ruffed dummy's ace. Now came the final ignominy: East returned a top diamond and West could not over-ruff the six of hearts! Cuthbertson cashed the ace and king of spades, ruffed a spade with the ace of hearts and played a heart to the ten. At this point Niblett paused, as if thinking about a discard; Cuthbertson cursed. West played the five of clubs; another murmur from South. Then, 'Oh, sorry; I have a heart.' Euphoria!

Of course, the results from the Closed Room were not known; could they have won? Eventually, Shenkin and Coyle emerged and Shenkin said that they had a winning card — how right he was. The 12 IMPs gained on the last board produced a set score of 64-5 and victory by 8 IMPs; 168-160.

One feels sorry for Niblett's team; it was a million-to-one shot that the cards would fall as they did.

In that year's final, the Haase team went on to beat Irving Rose and his squad of internationals. What odds could you have got for that before those eight boards started?



ENTERPRISING BRIDGE

CAPTAIN'S log, star date 761.2: We are approaching star system 913, one of the farthest flung systems in the universe. No Starship has ever traveled this far before and so we are on full alert.

Kirk: Steady as you go, Mr. Sulu, warp factor two.

Sulu: Aye-aye, Sir.

Kirk: What information so far, Mr. Spock?

Spock: This is obviously a very old Solar System. The star is nearing the end of its life. Of the six planets, the third seems to have been the most habitable but it must be too cold now and only the innermost could sustain life as we know it. It is possible that all life has died out or left for other galaxies. There are no signs of life on my instruments.

Kirk: Well, as we have come this far we might as well take a look at the third planet to see if there are any signs of intelligent life. Warp factor four, Mr. Sulu.

Sulu: Aye-aye, Sir.

There is a momentary pause, during which nothing happens.

Kirk: I said warp factor four, Mr. Sulu.

Sulu: Yes, Sir, I know and I adjusted the controls but there was no response.

It becomes apparent that they have stopped altogether. Suddenly a voice fills the whole bridge.

Voice: Welcome to our world. You are the first travellers to visit us for many thousands of years.

Uhura: Sir, they are not transmitting on any frequency.

Voice: As you realize, our sun is dying and we have had to move forward onto the planet nearest our sun.

Spock: All my instruments have gone dead.

Voice: Shortly we will have to leave even here and find a new home. However, we do not have any transport and your ship is just what we need. There are too many of us to be taken aboard as passengers, so we will be forced to

leave you here and take over your ship completely. Our race is many generations ahead of yours and it is a small sacrifice for you to make to save our people, who could be of great benefit to other worlds if only we lived closer to them.

Kirk: But...

Voice: There is no point thinking that you can do anything about it. We could turn your ship upside down as it hangs in space. We are not without feelings, though, and have what you seem to call a sense of fair play. Having read the minds of all on board we see that most of you can play a game that you give the funny name of bridge. It seems to be a most elementary game with which you have surprising difficulty. We will set you some problems and if you can solve them all without the aid of your computers, we will let you go with your ship.


Kirk: I remember playing bridge when I was in college but it was dying out. Spock, did you master this game?

Spock: Yes, I was taught it by my mother and it intrigued me when I was younger as it contained an interesting element of logic. Captain, I think we must consider our answers very carefully as one slip would result in a most unfortunate conclusion.

Voice: Here is the first problem.

Suddenly inside all their minds appeared the following cards:

Game All. Dealer North

♠ 93		♠ AKJ754
♥ KJ42		♥ 10763
♦ AQ4		♦ 965
♣ K974		♣ —

Voice: The bidding proceeded:

West	North	East	South
	pass	pass	pass
1♥	pass	4♥	all pass

North leads the six of spades and you have to tell me how to play the contract.

Spock: I think North must hold the ace of clubs as otherwise a club lead would have been a little awkward. We could have thrown a diamond from dummy and another diamond on the king of clubs after South had won with the ace but we would not have been well placed.

Kirk: Spock, we have not received a club lead and so will you concentrate on the job at hand; our ship is at stake!

Spock: Captain, we must try to keep calm and not allow our emotions to cloud our judgement. The point about the ace of clubs is relevant as it makes it slightly more likely that South holds the ace of hearts. The danger in this hand is that we will run out of control due to the tenuous trump holding.

Kirk: What do you suggest then Spock?

Spock: I win with the ace of spades.

Voice: South plays the eight.

Spock: And I lead a heart...

Voice: Five...

Spock: King...

Voice: Nine.

Spock: Now I play my second spade.

Voice: North plays the two.

Spock: I win with the king and ruff a spade with my two of hearts when South produces the queen.

Voice: North overruffs with the queen of hearts and returns a diamond, South playing the ten.

Spock: How strange. North has misdefended against us. If he had led the ace of clubs, I would have had to throw a diamond from the dummy and settle for ten tricks. Now I think we will make eleven. I win with the queen of diamonds, cash the ace, ruff a club and lead a spade from

the dummy. If South ruffs low, I overruff, return to the dummy with a further club ruff and lead another spade. Whether South ruffs high or discards, I throw my diamond loser and crossruff, losing only the ace of hearts.

Voice: Well done, you are correct. Now things get harder.

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ K932	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A1064
♥ A102		♥ QJ3
♦ K754		♦ 6
♣ J6		♣ KQ982

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
			pass
pass	pass	1♣	1♦
1♠	2♦	2♠	pass
3♦	pass	4♠	all pass

North leads the eight of diamonds to South's ace. He switches to the seven of hearts, you play low, I presume, and North wins with the king. He cashes the ace of clubs before exiting with a heart. After you have won with the queen, how will you continue?

Sulu: I think that I can solve this one, Sir. We have lost three tricks and so must play the trump suit for no losers. We cannot gain if either player has a singleton honor and so we need to find the queen-jack doubleton in either hand.

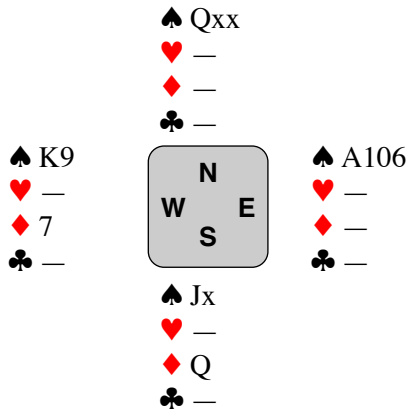
Kirk: Let us not be too hasty as there is so much at stake for us. Spock, can you see a fault in that analysis as it seems so obvious.

Spock: On the surface that would appear to be correct, Captain. However, it is only a 6.78261% chance that either player will hold the doubleton queen-jack. I can see another possibility that offers a greater chance, in fact three

times the chance or 20.35783%. North could hold three trumps to the queen or jack and South would then have two cards including the jack or queen. Then we might be able to pull off what is rather illogically called the Devil's Coup. I doubt that Satan has ever produced the play, even though he has enjoyed some popularity in bridge articles.

Kirk: Mister Spock, could we have less of what you would, no doubt, call a sense of humor, if only you had one, and tell us what a Devil's Coup happens to be.

Spock: We would play to reduce to the following position.



By leading the seven of diamonds from the West hand the opposition fail to make the trump trick that seemed to be theirs by right. If North ruffs low we overruff and claim. If he ruffs high we continue with our policy of playing for split honors by overruffing with the ace and finessing the nine in our hand.

Kirk: That certainly seems to be an impressive analysis, Spock, but is it correct?

Spock: Well, Captain, I do see a snag in that it would appear that South will need to hold 2-3-5-3 distribution, otherwise I think that he should be able to defeat us with good discarding. However, it is a better percentage than

the queen-jack doubleton line and would they really set the hand if that was all there was to it?

Kirk: I think you are right, Spock.

Spock: We play the king and queen of clubs.

Voice: South discards a heart on the second of these.

Spock: How very strange. A diamond discard...I throw the ace of hearts and ruff the winning jack of hearts.

Voice: All follow.

Spock: South must have 2-4-5-2 shape so I cash the king of diamonds, ruff a diamond and ruff a club to arrive at the position you must have heard us discuss.

Voice: Once more you are right. Now for the final test.

Game All. Dealer South.

♠ K97	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J5
♥ KQ83		♥ AJ10965
♦ 654		♦ QJ72
♣ AJ10		♣ 9

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	pass	4 ♣	pass
4 ♥	all pass		pass

As you will guess, four clubs is a splinter agreeing hearts. West, with his flat minimum, signs off rapidly. North leads the seven of clubs and South plays the queen. You will win with the ace and have to make ten tricks to save your ship and its crew.

Kirk: Even if we have to restrict our diamond losers to two, we will need South to hold the ace of spades or the singleton queen. Let us draw trumps and get this over with, one way or another.

Uhura: Sir, my mother always used to tell me to trump my losers before drawing trumps, so shouldn't you ruff those clubs before playing hearts?

- Kirk: Lieutenant, there will still be ample trumps in the dummy to take care of the clubs after drawing the opposition's hearts.
- Spock: Yes, Captain, but unintentionally Lieutenant Uhura might have made an excellent suggestion. It seems that we need South to hold the ace of spades but it would not hurt to try to learn more about the lie of cards to see if it is likely. If we play the jack of clubs at trick two we will learn if North holds the king of clubs as, in practice, he is bound to cover. They seem to be giving us every chance to make these contracts by allowing the best play to succeed.
- Kirk: All right, we play the jack of clubs.
- Voice: North plays the two.
- Kirk: We ruff.
- Voice: South contributes the four.
- Spock: We cash the ace of hearts and play a heart to the queen.
- Voice: North discards on the second round.
- Spock: Now we lead a diamond and will play the jack if North plays low.
- Voice: South wins with the king and plays a diamond to North's ace. He exits with another diamond to dummy's queen, South discarding a club.
- Spock: Before we play a spade to the king let us double check. South has shown up with the king and queen of clubs and also the king of diamonds. If he had the ace of spades as well surely he would have opened the bidding. I think that North must hold the ace of spades and that we are doomed to defeat.
- Kirk: Surely there is some chance, Spock. They could not give us an impossible hand, could they?
- Sulu: Can South hold the singleton queen of spades?
- Spock: Not unless he is playing a different game, I fear. He holds only four red cards, that we know for certain. If he held only one spade that would necessitate eight clubs in his hand and we have already learnt that North holds at least two.

Kirk: Come on Spock, there must be an answer.

As tension mounts Spock continues to try to come up with a logical solution. He fails but Lieutenant Uhura gives him a clue.

Uhura: My mother's other favorite axiom was always to cover an honor with an honor. Could that be wrong as well?

Spock: Yes, of course. Why didn't I think of it before? Lead the jack of spades from dummy and South, if he holds the queen without the ten, might think you are going to have to guess the spade suit to make the contract. If he ducks you are home. I believe that this type of play also had a fallacious name, a Chinese finesse. O.K. we lead the jack of spades.

Voice: You are unfortunately correct. The full deal was:

	♠ A1063	
	♥ 7	
	♦ A983	
	♣ 8752	
♠ K97		♠ J5
♥ KQ83		♥ AJ10965
♦ 654		♦ QJ72
♣ AJ10		♣ 9
	♠ Q842	
	♥ 42	
	♦ K10	
	♣ KQ643	

At the time South failed to cover the jack of spades, letting the contract make. At the other table the declarer just led a low spade to the king and so went one down.

Spock: Where did you get these hands from as in each case the defense misplayed? On the first hand it only gave away an overtrick but on the second hand, if South discards diamonds on the third and fourth rounds of clubs, even though this allows the declarer to set up the seven of diamonds as a winner, when he tries for the Devil's

Coup South will have two trumps and a heart and can overruff the dummy.

Voice: Obviously we are sorry that you solved all the hands but our civilization has been in existence for thousands of years more than yours and maybe one day you will reach the level of our technology.

Kirk: We will report your position to our nearest star base in the hope that they can send a ship for some of you before it is too late. We are very impressed by your attitude and wish that all peoples in the universe held the same high ideals.

Voice: We know that there is not time for that. We wish you a safe return to your home planet.

Suddenly everything returns to normal — their presence disappears and all instruments start functioning once more.

Kirk: It is a great pity that a race as advanced and civilized as that should have to die out when you compare them with certain other races that live on, like the Klingons. Perhaps we could take some of them aboard and let them start a new life on another planet.

Spock: Clearly they do not wish that, Sir. I think that they wish to remain together, happy in the knowledge that in their final hour they have brought dignity upon their people.

Lieutenant Uhura quietly sheds several tears.

JAKE K. STRIM



THE BENNETT SAGA

or Diminished Responsibility

ON a Saturday afternoon in the autumn of 1929 Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bennett played bridge in their apartment in Park Manor, Kansas City. The American newspapers, and in particular the *New York Evening Journal*, stated that the apartment was fashionable and possibly they were right because John G. Bennett, a highly-paid perfume agent, earned approximately \$40,000 a year. That morning he had played golf with Mr. Oscar L. Hoffman at the exclusive Indian Hill's Country Club. They went back to the Bennett's apartment, their appetites whetted, to enjoy an 'icebox lunch'. For the afternoon a bridge foursome was proposed with Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Bennett participating.

"As the game went on," Mrs. Hoffman stated afterwards, "the Bennett's criticisms of each other grew more and more caustic. Finally, a four spade contract was bought by them and Mr. Bennett was defeated."

Mr. Bennett was furious. This seemed to infuriate his wife and she began goading him with remarks about "bum bridge players". Mr. Bennett retaliated in the same vein.

"He came right back at her," stated Mrs. Hoffman, "and bye and bye the row had become so pronounced that Bennett, reaching across the table, grabbed Myrtle's arm and slapped her several times."

The Hoffmans tried to intervene by demanding new cards or, if the Bennett's preferred to stop the game, settlement in dollars and not in fisticuffs.

Mrs Bennett repeated over and over in a strained sing-song tone: "Nobody but a bum would hit a woman," till Mr. Bennett jumped up and shouted, "I'm going to spend the night at a hotel. And tomorrow I'm leaving town." Mrs. Bennett suggested to the guests that they had better go and the latter started to do so.

Mr. Bennett went to his 'den' to pack for the intended trip but he could have saved himself the trouble. His wife dashed into the bedroom of her mother, Mrs. Alice B. Adkins, and snatched

the family automatic from a dresser drawer explaining to Mrs. Adkins that John G. Bennett was going to St. Joseph's Hotel and wanted to be armed. I do not know whether the management of St. Joseph has protested against this innuendo but certainly Mrs. Adkins should have prevented the snatch. A few seconds later Myrtle Bennett shot her husband through the heart. As Bennett fell, moaning "she got me," Myrtle's daze broke. She ran towards him. Police found her bent over him, giving vent to wild sobs.

"Post Mortem" is the title of the article written by the late Sidney S. Lenz, internationally famous bridge expert, for the *New York Evening Journal* in which he brilliantly analyses the bidding and play of the tragic hand. Here it is.

<i>Mrs Myrtle Bennett</i>			
♠ A1063			
♥ 1085			
♦ 4			
♣ A9842			
<i>Oscar L. Hoffman</i>			<i>Mrs. Hoffman</i>
♠ Q72			♠ 4
♥ AJ3			♥ Q94
♦ AQ1092			♦ KJ763
♣ J6			♣ Q753
<i>John Bennett</i>			
♠ KJ985			
♥ K762			
♦ 85			
♣ K10			
South	North		
1 ♠	4 ♠		

Mr. Lenz thinks that Mr. Bennett's original spade bid was unsound. He approves Mrs. Bennett's jump to four spades. "With every card badly located in the opposing hands and an improper initial bid, it required perfect defense to defeat the contract by only one trick."

Mr. Lenz has nothing but praise for the bidding and play of the Hoffmans, in particular Mr. Hoffman's abstention from doubling.

Mr. Hoffman led the ace of diamonds and then played the jack of clubs, a logical switch. Bennett took this trick with the king and led the jack of spades. Hoffman very properly did not cover an honor with an honor and played the two.

The ace of spades went up and on the return Mrs. Hoffman discarded a diamond. The king of spades won; the last diamond was trumped in dummy and the ace of clubs taken in. Then the nine of clubs was led, covered by the queen and trumped by Bennett. Hoffman over-trumped and led the ace and a low heart, defeating the contract by one trick, since the declarer was unable to get to dummy to discard on the two good clubs and had to lose another heart trick.

"There unquestionably was a good chance to make the contract if Bennett had played just a bit better," concludes Mr. Lenz. "The two trump leads were simply guesses, *but at the fifth trick it was bad play to trump the diamond*. The clubs should have been established first; then the fourth trump in dummy would have been a re-entry card for the good clubs and the adversaries would have been held to one trick each in spades, hearts, and diamonds. That is, if Hoffman had played as he did and cashed in the ace of hearts.

"If Hoffman had refused to lay down the ace of hearts until Bennett played the king, two tricks in hearts must be lost by the declarer."

A year later, when Mrs. Bennett had been set free by judge and jury after due consideration of all relevant and proven facts, the equally famous Ely Culbertson also analysed the fatal hand. His remarks are more picturesque and more profound than those of Sidney S. Lenz. He states that Mr. Bennett had two chances to save his life, as follows:

First, he could have passed.

"Scientific tests and the concrete experience of millions of bridge players have proved that a hand must contain two and a half honor-tricks for a sound opening-bid. The hand Mr.

Bennett dealt himself had only two honor-tricks and, while it is infrequent that the penalty for unsound bidding is as severe as this, all bridge players have learned by sad experience that behind this rule there is both logic and safety.”

Further on he describes the play of the hand.

“We have heard of lives depending on the play of a card. It is not often that we find that figure of speech literally true. Here is a case in point. Mr. Bennett had overbid his hand. Of that there can be no doubt. But even with this, so kind were the gods of distribution that he might have saved his life had he played his cards a little better.”

Ely Culbertson explains that, when Mr. Bennett had won the second trick with the king of clubs, he started to pull the adverse trumps.

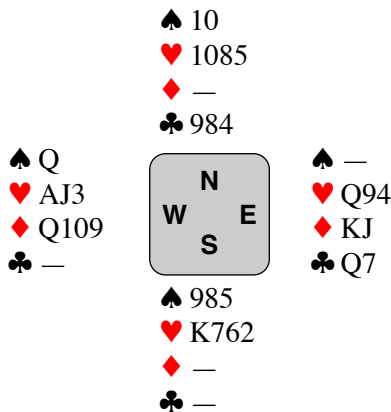
“Here again he flirted with death, as people so frequently do when they fail to have a plan either in the game of bridge or the game of life. He still could make his contract and save his life. The proper play before drawing the trumps would have been to establish the club suit, after ruffing the last diamond of the closed hand. Suppose Mr. Bennett, when he took the club trick with his king, had led his last diamond and trumped it with one of dummy's small trumps. He could then lead a trump and go up with the king... Now he would lead the ten of clubs and, when Mr. Hoffman followed suit, his troubles would be over. He would play the ace of clubs and lead the nine or eight. If Mrs. Hoffman put up the queen, Mr. Bennett should trump and let Mr. Hoffman overtrump if he pleased. If Mr. Hoffman, after winning this trick, led a heart, the contract and a life would be saved. If he led a diamond, the same would be true. A lead of the trump might still have permitted the fatal dénouement but at least Mr. Bennett would have had the satisfaction of knowing that he had played the cards dealt him by fate to the very best of his ability, and if he failed to make his contract, his wife could not have called him a “bum bridge player” but would far more probably have said: “Well, dearest, I am afraid I overvalued my holdings.”

“So thin sometimes is the dividing line between tragedy and joy.”

No comment can be found on the fact that Culbertson's analysis contradicts that of Lenz; their sole point of agreement being that Mr. Hoffman, having taken his trick with the queen of spades, could certainly have defeated the contract as, in fact, he did. Perhaps this is not very strange. Whenever I have played a hand in a team contest my teammates expertly show in three mutually exclusive ways how it should have been played, but they concur in their opinion that I butchered it.

But the real mystery of the Fatal Hand remains unsolved: how did John G. Bennett manage to go down?

Neither Lenz nor Culbertson refers to any weird happening during the play of the cards and therefore after six tricks, of which Mr. Bennett had won five, this must have been left:



We are told that dummy's nine of clubs was led, covered by the queen, ruffed by Bennett and overruffed by Hoffman, who then played the ace and three of hearts.

Why then was it impossible for Mr. Bennett to enter dummy with the ten of spades and get rid of his losing hearts on the eight and four of clubs? Had the ten of spades disappeared out of coyness or malice?

We shall never know, but it seems probable that Mr. Bennett could not have played better than he actually did and, if severe measures were called for, these should have been applied to

Mrs. Hoffman for covering the nine of clubs with her queen and to Mr. Hoffman for overruffing Mr. Bennett, for these two crimes gave Mr. Bennett his only chance to fulfil his contract.



A Lot to Learn, My Son

A YOUNG lad, gripped by the game as we often are at that age, was having a conversation with the Local Expert. Keen to learn more about how to get on, he had much to ask his hero ...

He started by asking him to explain Roman Key Card Blackwood.

The Local Expert confessed that he had never been able to understand it, and was sure it was overrated anyway. The young lad should forget all about it.

Completely undeterred, the youngster produced a hand, written on a scrap of paper, and asked the Expert to play it — enquiring at the same time, what the odds were, regarding taking the finesse, or playing for the drop.

The Local Expert replied that odds were out of his line, he relied on instinct, flair, the queen being over the jack, and how he felt at the time.

Still undaunted, and desperate to improve his game, the youngster finally questioned what the percentage play was in order to produce four tricks from K9xxx opposite A10 with unlimited entries.

The Local Expert confessed that although he had heard of percentage plays, he, personally, had never studied them.

The young beginner, realizing by now that he was taking up playing time, asked the Local Expert whether he minded being asked all these questions, and was told:

“Of course not! How else are you going to learn the game?”

THE CASE OF THE KNOTTED CRAVAT

In the annals of the small but prestigious bridge club near Baker Street where Sherlock Holmes and the arch-criminal Professor Moriarty fought their battle of wits.

IT was early one winter afternoon that Doctor Watson received a laconic note from Holmes asking for his attendance. When he arrived he found excitement gleaming in the deep-set eyes of the great detective as he sat huddled up in his armchair, his pipe in his mouth and his brow furrowed with thought.

“Watson,” he said, “you have just missed the opportunity of meeting Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard who, though he did not say so in so many words, is in need of our help.

“It seems that the Commissioner is displeased not only with Lestrade’s failure to clear up the mysterious disappearance of Count Sylvius, a matter about which you and I have our own ideas, but also with his inability to get to the bottom of some curious goings-on at Ledbitter’s Club.”

Doctor Watson’s homely features displayed unmistakable interest at the mention of his favorite bridge club. “Yes, yes,” he said, as he crossed to his accustomed chair near the fire, “I’ve heard something about it. Something to do with a visiting American, I believe. But surely Holmes, you don’t propose wasting your valuable time on such a trivial matter. Besides, I’ve heard these American johnnies can be devilish awkward at times.”

Holmes smiled deprecatingly as he recharged his old black pipe with the strong tobacco he favored. “Nevertheless, Watson, there’s something that needs explaining, and I mean to explore a little. As a first step, I’ve examined a list of Life Masters published in a recent issue of the American Contract Bridge League’s valuable monthly Bulletin, and I find that the name of Mr. James Morecroft is conspicuous by its absence. Does it not strike you as odd that this gentleman, who in the space of two weeks has won large sums of money from some of

London's best bridge players, is a person of no apparent reputation in his own country?"

Watson looked perplexed, then his eyes widened in surprise. "By Jove, Holmes, I believe you're on to something," he exclaimed. "What do you propose to do about it?"

The great detective made no reply but paced nervously to and fro. Then, reaching for his cloak and deerstalker cap, he cried, "Come, Watson, come. 'Tis three o'clock and the game's afoot." Stepping out into the bitter winter wind, the two friends hailed a cab and soon arrived at a small but prestigious bridge club which numbered among its members some of the leading figures in society, as well as a leavening of more raffish players.

There were several tables in play but it was noticeable that all the onlookers present were gathered at a table where the four players, who included the Club Secretary, a tall, balding figure with a deeply worried frown, were engaged in adding up the score of a rubber that had just been completed. "Twenty-three hundred points, gentlemen, if I am not mistaken," cried one of their number in ringing transatlantic tones. Holmes' keen eyes took in at a glance the broad featured stranger who sported a loud check suit and wore an inconspicuous hearing aid.



"Four diamonds? But damnit, that's my suit!"

With the completion of a new cut for partners, Holmes and Watson found themselves pitted against Morecroft — for the American was none other — and the Club Secretary. The very first deal indicated what the two friends were up against, the American successfully bringing home a contract that had appeared almost certain to fail.

	<i>Club Secretary</i>	
	♠ Q1064	
	♥ AK	
	♦ 643	
	♣ 10973	
<i>Holmes</i>		<i>Watson</i>
♠ 9753	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 82
♥ 87		♥ QJ1093
♦ 9872		♦ A105
♣ AK5		♣ 842
	<i>Morecroft</i>	
	♠ AKJ	
	♥ 6542	
	♦ KQJ	
	♣ QJ6	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1NT	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

Holmes found the inspired opening lead of the eight of hearts and Watson enthusiastically played the queen. The declarer proceeded to lead a diamond from dummy and, on winning the trick with the king, continued with the queen, Watson again playing low.

As it was apparent that a third diamond lead would merely serve to establish a long card for the defenders, the onlookers expected Morecroft to turn his attention to clubs at this time

but, to their surprise, he proceeded to continue diamonds, removing Watson's ace.

Watson returned a heart but it soon became clear that the contract could not be defeated. Whatever the defenders did, the declarer could dislodge the ace and king of clubs and make the contract for the loss of two diamonds and two clubs.

"Upon my soul, Holmes," exclaimed Watson. "The declarer has played the hand as though he knew all the cards. For no apparent reason, he determinedly attacked the ace of diamonds, which proved to be my only entry for the long hearts, pursuing the suit even though I held up the ace for two rounds. Being fortunate enough to find you with both the ace and king of clubs, he then made the contract by establishing that suit, since I am quite unable to gain entry to cash my long hearts. Dashed suspicious!"

The good doctor glared at his opponent but before Morecroft could speak a tall stooping figure emerged from the hushed group of kibitzers. Holmes stiffened in his chair as he recognised his old adversary, Professor Moriarty, who had apparently been standing near Watson's side of the table.

"Sir," said Moriarty, addressing Watson, "Mr. Morecroft is my guest at this club and I take a most serious view of your imputations." Watson would willingly have spoken up for himself but Holmes silenced him with a glance. "We have not failed to observe," said the sleuth coldly, "that the declarer's method of playing the hand can be justified by a suitable process of ratiocination. A careful consideration of the facts shows that the contract almost certainly cannot be made if the defender's hearts are divided 4-3, for in that case declarer will surely lose two heart tricks, the ace of diamonds and the AK of clubs. Therefore, declarer must assume a 5-2 heart division. In addition, he must assume that East has only one entry and that this can be driven out before the hearts become established.

"It is clear that the declarer must fail in his mission if East holds either the ace or the king of clubs," continued the sleuth, "since West will win the first club when one is led and will play a second heart. Declarer will therefore never succeed in making a club trick.

“But if East’s only entry is the ace of diamonds, the contract can be made provided that card is immediately dislodged, the clubs being left for establishment at a later stage. Yes, Moriarty, it must be conceded that the declarer’s method of play was perfectly logical. We shall be most interested to observe whether your guest can maintain such a high level of virtuosity during the remainder of the rubber.”

As events turned out, it required all Holmes’ skill to prevent Morecroft winning the rubber with the very next hand, in which he again became the declarer of three no trumps.

	<i>Club Secretary</i>	
	♠ 74	
	♥ AK2	
	♦ 86	
	♣ KJ9543	
<i>Holmes</i>		<i>Watson</i>
♠ 86532	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J109
♥ 98653		♥ 104
♦ 95		♦ AK10732
♣ A		♣ Q7
	<i>Morecroft</i>	
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ QJ7	
	♦ QJ4	
	♣ 10862	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
	pass	1♣	2♦
3NT	all pass		

Holmes led the nine of diamonds and Watson, with an alacrity that caused Holmes some apprehension, proceeded to cash the AK of the suit. Watson then nodded sagely, as though he realized that he should have ducked the first diamond. His problem now,

as he saw it, was to decide whether to play a third diamond, hoping to regain the lead somehow or other, or switch to the jack of spades. Eventually, he decided to continue diamonds.

To Watson's surprise, Holmes registered intense pleasure as he without hesitation discarded the ace of clubs. "Bravo, Watson," he cried, "Bravo! Unless I am much mistaken, the declarer can take only eight tricks before you come in with the queen of clubs to cash your diamonds.

"Playing the third diamond was a brilliant move, Watson," continued the sleuth more quietly, "for it enabled me to divest myself of the ace of clubs. Morecroft would otherwise have made the contract very easily after conceding a club to the ace, since you would never have got in. It is to be admitted that you could also have beaten the contract by simply ducking the first round of diamonds, but your actual method of defense was undeniably far more artistic." The good doctor sometimes suspected his old friend of speaking with tongue in cheek, but at all events he was happy to bask in his approbation.

In the third deal of the rubber Holmes' powers of deduction again showed to advantage as he once more defeated the stranger at a contract of three no trumps:

		<i>Club Secretary</i>	
		♠ 82	
		♥ J10	
		♦ A7643	
		♣ AQ83	
<i>Holmes</i>			<i>Watson</i>
♠ K5	<div>♠ N ♥ W E ♦ S ♣</div>	♠ 10973	
♥ K543		♥ A982	
♦ Q95		♦ J108	
♣ 10972		♣ J4	
		<i>Morecroft</i>	
		♠ AQJ64	
		♥ Q76	
		♦ K2	
		♣ K65	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
<i>Morecroft</i>	<i>Holmes</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Watson</i>
			pass
1♠	pass	2♦	pass
2♠	pass	3♣	pass
3NT	all pass		

Holmes led the three of hearts and after winning with the ace Watson returned the two, which was taken by Holmes' king. Declarer won the next heart lead with the queen, entered dummy with a club and led a spade, finessing the queen.

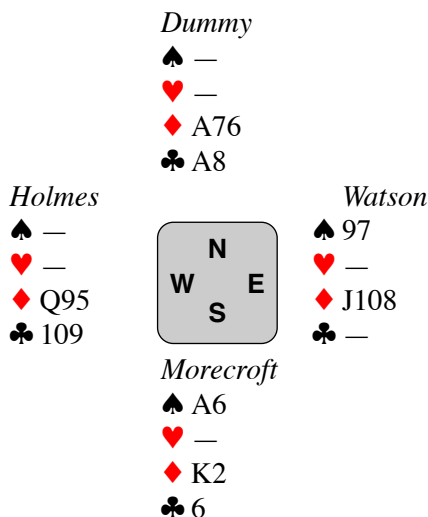
Realizing that South might switch to diamonds if the queen of spades were allowed to hold, Holmes won with the king. To Watson's great frustration, he then returned a spade instead of a fourth heart. However, it turned out that Morecroft could not avoid going down a trick. He had already lost a spade and two hearts, and if he attempted to give up a diamond trick the defense would take a setting trick in hearts.

"I am bound to say, Holmes," said the greatly relieved doctor, "that on this occasion you appear to have displayed less than your usual acumen. It seems that you failed to deduce that I had the winning nine of hearts, for you did not lead your fourth heart on coming in with the king of spades.

"Fortunately, the declarer could muster only eight winning tricks, so your failure to return a heart was not fatal, though at the time it caused me a degree of agitation."

The great detective smiled slightly. "It is possible, Watson," he replied, "that you have overlooked the advantage of my method of defending the hand. I can assure you that, had I returned a heart upon winning with the king of spades, the contract would have been made.

“Leading the heart would have brought us to four defensive tricks. Let us suppose that you then exited with the ten of spades. Declarer would win with the jack and proceed to cash the king of clubs, producing this position:

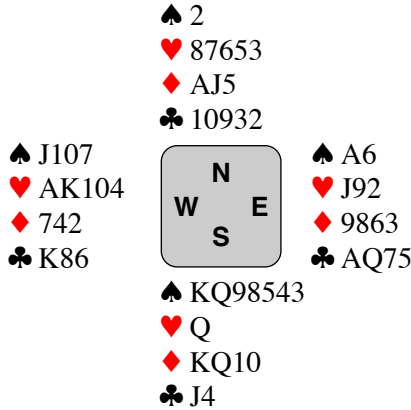


“As you can see, Watson, a double squeeze follows inevitably. The ace of clubs is cashed, forcing you to discard a diamond. Declarer then enters his hand with the king of diamonds and leads the ace of spades, squeezing me in turn and enabling dummy to make the last two tricks whatever I throw.

“No, Watson, my refusal to set the timing for a squeeze by playing the fourth heart was quite essential, and left Morecroft without resource.”

The eyes of Moriarty and his visitor met momentarily as the American sullenly entered 100 in the ‘They’ column, while the doctor was generous in his praise of Holmes’ excellent defense.

In the fourth hand of the rubber Morecroft, recovering his poise, formed a brilliant diagnosis in the trump suit, causing Holmes’ brow to darken as he pondered the possible explanation of the visitor’s method of play.



The bidding:

South	West	North	East
3♠	all pass		pass

Holmes led the king of hearts and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed, crossed to a diamond, and led the two of spades, on which Watson played the six. Declarer went up with the king of spades and Holmes calmly dropped the ten!

The declarer now gave the appearance of being deeply exercised and the eager throng of kibitzers pressed closer as they waited to see how he would continue the trump suit. Holmes bit his lip as he observed Moriarty, who had peered intently into Watson's hand to observe the trump situation, apparently engaged in a whispered conversation with no one in particular.

After a pause the declarer, with an air of decision, continued with a low spade to Watson's ace and so made the contract for the loss of a trump trick, a heart and two clubs.

"An interesting situation, Watson," observed Holmes in measured tones. "My first-round play of the ten of trumps was of course what is termed an obligatory falsecard, in the sense that had I played a low one instead, the declarer would have been bound to adopt the winning method of play in the trump suit. In

such cases his only chance of holding himself to one trump loser would have been to play you for the doubleton ace.

“After I had played the ten, however, declarer was left with a choice of plays. He could either ignore the ten and play you for an original holding of Ax or, if he took my ten at its face value, he could play me for the J10 bare by returning the queen, as I of course hoped he would.

“Mr. Morecroft is to be congratulated on his seeing through the deception,” concluded the sleuth. Watson thought he detected an ironical emphasis on the verb and, taking the hint, proceeded to hold his cards so that they could be observed by no-one but himself.

With the outlook seemingly black for the two friends, Holmes neatly turned the tables as he brought home a slam contract by applying his phenomenal powers of analysis.

	<i>Club Secretary</i>	
	♠ 1098643	
	♥ J5	
	♦ J862	
	♣ 5	
<i>Holmes</i>		<i>Watson</i>
♠ AJ2	<div>W N S E</div>	♠ KQ
♥ K643		♥ A7
♦ AK3		♦ Q1074
♣ 873		♣ AQJ42
	<i>Morecroft</i>	
	♠ 75	
	♥ Q10982	
	♦ 95	
	♣ K1096	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
	1 ♥	pass	2 ♣
pass	2NT	pass	6NT
all pass			

A spade was led and Holmes won the trick in dummy. He entered his hand with the ace of diamonds and took the club finesse, losing the trick to Morecroft's king. Morecroft exited with a spade and Holmes' next move was to lay down the ace of clubs, revealing the bad break.

With apparently only ten winning tricks, Holmes' task now seemed well-nigh hopeless, but he proceeded to cash the jack of clubs, the king of diamonds and ace of spades on which South threw a heart. Then Holmes led a low diamond from his own hand, eliciting a gasp from the onlookers as he boldly finessed dummy's ten. When it held, declarer could count up to eleven tricks and this position had been reached.

	<i>Club Secretary</i>	
	♠ 9	
	♥ J5	
	♦ J	
	♣ —	
<i>Holmes</i>		<i>Dummy</i>
♠ —	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ —
♥ K643		♥ A7
♦ —		♦ Q
♣ —		♣ 4
	<i>Morecroft</i>	
	♠ —	
	♥ Q109	
	♦ —	
	♣ 10	

Holmes proceeded to cash dummy's queen of diamonds, squeezing Morecroft in hearts and clubs and thus making the slam.

"Amazing, Holmes, positively amazing," cried Watson, "a perfect automatic squeeze. However, I am sure you will not mind my pointing out that despite the squeeze, you could not have succeeded in making twelve tricks had you not taken a very fortunate guess in the diamond suit."

"My dear fellow," replied the sleuth, "I can assure you that no guesswork was involved. The whole case was a somewhat elementary exercise in scientific deduction.

"When the club distribution was revealed, I saw that even with four tricks in diamonds, I would need a squeeze for the twelfth trick. For this to succeed, I had to find Morecroft in sole control of hearts as well as clubs.

"He had already shown up with two spades and four clubs, and for the squeeze to work I had to assume that he had five hearts. It therefore became obvious that he could have room for no more than two diamonds. It was on this basis that I successfully played North for the Jxxx of diamonds and made the contract as you saw."

"Yes, by Gad, I see that the hand was really quite simple," said Watson as he entered the score, which now showed an advantage of several hundred points to the two friends.

That evening Holmes and Watson sat enjoying a pipe of tobacco with Inspector Lestrade, who had called round to hear their account of the afternoon's events.

"Confound it Holmes," said Watson, "I still don't quite see how you finally got on to the fellow, nor do I understand what caused him to go completely to pieces on the final hand of the rubber."

The detective drew at his pipe and exhaled a veritable cloud of smoke. "You know my methods, Watson," he replied. "The presence of our old adversary, Moriarty, in the Card Room was sufficient to persuade me that some devilry was afoot, even though the professor was not actually playing. I was also struck by the coincidence that his American guest employed the use of a hearing aid and that Moriarty, who normally, whatever his other transgressions, is sartorially above reproach, was sporting a cravat knotted high upon his throat.

"My suspicions were further aroused by the unparalleled brilliance with which Morecroft played the first hand of the rubber. I know of only one person besides who could have analyzed that hand so well — Moriarty himself. I therefore became convinced that Morecroft's successful method of playing the hand was

based, not on his own powers of analysis, but on an illicit message that he had received from the watching professor, who, I suspected, was taking full advantage of his knowledge of the defenders' cards. The hands that Morecroft subsequently played satisfied me beyond all doubt that this was so."

"That's all very well, Holmes," interjected Inspector Lestrade "but how was Moriarty tipping Morecroft off about the defenders' cards? Since this affair blew up, my plain clothes men have been on duty at the Club and have observed nothing suspicious."

"My dear Lestrade," replied Holmes, "one is aware, of course, that the advent of the metal germanium has enabled a wireless receiving apparatus to be designed within a very small compass, similar to that of the modern hearing aid. One is also aware of the possible use of a transmitting apparatus in association with a throat microphone.

"Convinced that this was the explanation, it remained only for me to lure the professor away from his station at your elbow, Watson, where he was easily able to observe your hand due to your unfortunate habit of not holding your cards in close proximity to your thorax, and to persuade him to watch me instead. Fortunately an opportunity was not long delayed. You may remember that, in discussing the hand which Morecroft played in three spades, I remarked that the declarer was to be congratulated at having seen through my attempt to deceive him. You, Watson, displaying your usual rapport, grasped the message and thenceforth proceeded to carefully conceal your cards.

"Forced now to station himself at my side of the table, Moriarty rose to the bait on the very next hand, where this was the layout of the cards:

<i>Club Secretary</i>		
	♠ A	
	♥ K96	
	♦ K84	
	♣ KQ10953	
<i>Holmes</i>		<i>Watson</i>
♠ KJ86542	<div>♠ N ♥ W ♦ S ♣ E</div>	♠ 93
♥ 84		♥ 107532
♦ 732		♦ Q
♣ 6		♣ J8742
<i>Morecroft</i>		
	♠ Q107	
	♥ AQJ	
	♦ AJ10965	
	♣ A	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
		1♣	pass
2♦	pass	3♣	pass
3♦	pass	4♦	pass
4NT	pass	5♦	pass
7NT	dbl	pass	pass
rdbl	all pass		

“It may have occurred to you, Watson, that with the vital queen of diamonds falling the veriest tyro should have had no difficulty in making the redoubled grand slam. But you must try to appreciate that when Moriarty, true to my expectations, peered into my hand, this is what he saw:

♠ KJ8654
♥ 84
♦ Q732
♣ 6

“On observing the dummy, it had become obvious to me that the declarer’s fate depended on successfully locating the queen of diamonds, and so I quickly abstracted that particular card from a spare deck that I had secreted on my person, temporarily substituting it for a low spade. Professor Moriarty did the rest of my work for me, and he fully persuaded Morecroft that, on winning the spade opening lead, the winning method of play would be to enter the closed hand with a club and lead the jack of diamonds, taking a first round finesse against my supposed queen.

“The expression on their faces when you won the trick and returned a spade was most gratifying, as also was the ensuing penalty of 4000 points. I am normally averse to adding up the score before the rubber has been properly concluded, but on this occasion, in view of the ensuing disorder, there seemed little alternative.”

Watson’s face had been taking on an increasingly doubtful expression. “Dash it, Holmes,” he objected, “surely that’s not playing the game.”

“My dear fellow,” replied the sleuth, “I have studied the Laws of Bridge very carefully and have failed to detect any prohibition that would be relevant to the case.

“In any event, when dealing with villains such as Moriarty and Morecroft, one must arm oneself to some extent with the weapons of one’s adversaries. Indeed, Watson, it has occurred to me that although you are kind enough to praise, far too lavishly, my powers of scientific deduction, it may well be that the humble successes that I occasionally enjoy are due rather to the fact that, operating outside the framework of the regular constabulary, I may occasionally employ methods forbidden to our colleague Lestrade.” On hearing this, Lestrade, whose satisfaction with the outcome of the affair had been tinged with professional jealousy, brightened considerably.

“And now, Watson, since Lestrade unfortunately has to return to the Yard to make his report, let us devote ourselves to the excellent kedgeriee that Mrs. Hudson has provided for our supper.”

“It is unfortunate, Watson,” said Holmes, as the door closed

behind the departing Scotland Yard detective, "that the worthy Lestrade feels able to prefer no more serious a charge against Morecroft, alias Winter, alias Killer Evans, than that of possessing an unlicensed wireless receiver, an offense for which the penalty is trivial. Nevertheless, tomorrow I shall be attending a meeting of the Credentials Committee, and I fancy it will be a long time before Professor Moriarty ventures to introduce such a scoundrel into the Club again."

ALBERT DORMER



The Lawyer's Advice

THERE was once a famous bridge expert who went to a lot of parties and everywhere he was asked by other guests how to bid or play this or that hand. Being somewhat bored with all these questions, he found a lawyer at one of the parties and asked him how to get rid of all these 'clients'.

"That is rather simple," said the lawyer. "The next day you should send a note saying: One Bridge Expert's Advice equals \$100. Then it will automatically stop."

The expert thought it was a good advice and thanked the lawyer.

Two days later he received a note: "One Lawyer's Opinion equals \$100."

THE (DALLAS) ACES

During the 1960s and early 1970s, the Italian Blue Team dominated world bridge. Naturally, this did not go down well in the United States.

Ira Corn, a Texan millionaire, set about remedying the situation. He invited those whom we considered to be the best six players in the country to his ranch and made them an offer they couldn't refuse!

Corn, himself picks up the story from there...

I HAD many decisions to take in the early days of the Aces. Some of these you can guess: Who should we recruit? How much should they be paid? How should we go about becoming a winning team? What training techniques would produce better players? These are but a few of the problems that needed answers. But you'll never guess which problem gave me the worst headache. I had to decide between fielding a winner as opposed to being a gracious host to invited guests. Why should there have been any conflict between these seemingly unrelated areas? Let me tell you the story.

After we had staggered through our first four months of existence, I asked Joe Musumeci if he would consider accepting the position of coach and general manager of the team. I had decided that full-time direct supervision of team activities was an absolute requirement. It was imperative that I assign the day-to-day operating responsibilities to a capable and qualified individual. Joe's military experiences made him especially well-suited for the job (Joe was a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel) and his bridge expertise was more than enough to achieve the results I was looking for. He was an excellent player with a balanced personality and thus would not get ego-involved with the team. Fortunately, Joe accepted and, with the unanimous and enthusiastic concurrence of all the players, he joined us in June of 1968.

Joe's training outline included rules about alcohol, rest, exercise, and eating habits, in addition to the technical requirements

of forming three partnerships, developing systems, measuring performance and molding a unified team out of a group of six self-orientated individuals. Of course, Joe's views coincided exactly with mine, so there were no problems along those lines.

A special problem arose during our weekend challenge matches. In those days we invited top players of the U.S. and Canada to visit Dallas to play a 128-board match at my home. We played Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon. With planes to catch and meet, the schedule was tight except for Saturdays. On Saturdays we played two 32-board quarters with a dinner break from about 5:00 to 7:30.

And that's where the problem lay. Our training rules forbade our players a relaxing drink between sessions and heavy meals prior to play were taboo. However, laying the law down for the Aces was one thing; dictating to my invited guests was quite another. So our policies were a bit more relaxed on Saturdays. And we always seemed to pay the price. Not that our players drank too much — they were limited to only one short drink. They just simply couldn't keep from eating too much of the rich food offered by Dorothy Moore and Betsey Wolff. Obviously, they ate much more than did our guests. Gradually, our experience indicated that the scores showed this to be a fact.

For example, in June of 1969, the Aces played a weekend match against the Dick Walsh team of Los Angeles (John Swanson, Paul Soloway, Jerry Hallee).

The scores by 16 board segments were:

	Aces	Walsh
<i>Friday Evening</i>	39	18
	23	37
<i>Saturday Afternoon</i>	49	57
	50	16
<i>Saturday Evening</i>	27	12
	4	59

Note the last Saturday evening score. The first 16 boards after dinner were not catastrophic — the dinner hadn't settled yet. However, in the second half it was another ballgame. As the evening droned on, the enemy seemed to score an average of about one extra IMP per Aces' yawn and there were quite a few of both. The key hand which jolted everyone awake was this one:

Game All. Dealer East.

	Walsh	
	♠ —	
	♥ J7632	
	♦ AQ8764	
	♣ 75	
Goldman		Eisenberg
♠ K632	N	♠ QJ107654
♥ 5	W	♥ K8
♦ J932	S	♦ —
♣ Q1094		♣ J862
	Swanson	
	♠ A8	
	♥ AQ1094	
	♦ K105	
	♣ AK3	

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
3♠	dbl	5♠	5NT
pass	6♠	pass	7♦
pass	7♥	pass	pass
dbl	7NT	dbl	all pass

Eisenberg started with a relatively standard pre-empt and Swanson's double was routine. Goldman's 5♠ bid was intended

to put the pressure on North and Walsh counter-attacked by bidding 5NT. This bid meant, "We're playing in a slam, partner, let's choose the best suit."

Swanson, undoubtedly goaded by the opposing pre-empts and by North's strength-showing bid, decided to cue-bid 6♠. This carried the message, "I've got lots of extras here and I don't like being pushed around. Let's play in a grand slam!"

North chose 7♦ but South corrected to 7♥ and East was happy to say, "Double". This was the Lightner Slam Double which asked for an unusual lead while barring the lead of the suit bid by the defenders.

Unfortunately, South also knew why East had doubled so he side-stepped gingerly to 7NT. Not because he was sure he could make it but because he knew that 7♥ would go down via a first-round diamond ruff.

Well, the 'impossible' took place. Declarer was able to take a simple finesse in hearts and to double finesse in diamonds to make his doubled grand slam and 2,490 points. In the replay, the Aces scored 800 points for beating 6♠, doubled, and we lost a 17 IMP swing.

After this disaster, we found it difficult to recover and the Walsh team went on to win by 32 IMPs. But it wasn't a total loss. There's no teacher quite as emphatic as a humbling experience and the Aces bounced back to enjoy a great year. And we did adopt a new rule, "No heavy dinners between all sessions, including Saturdays."

And we did get our revenge. In October of 1969, the Aces met this same team in the U.S. International Team Playoff and soundly defeated them by 141 IMPs. This time we had no problems keeping our players away from the dinner table.

It is a matter of record that the Aces finally achieved their goal. After two years they won the World Championship and started a run of American dominance which was not truly broken until 1989. That first winning Aces team was: Bobby Wolff, Jim Jacoby, Bob Hamman, Billy Eisenberg, Bobby Goldman and Mike Lawrence. Five of them are still top professionals today.

EDDIE KANTAR'S HAND

THE World Championship of 1975 was notable for two things. First, the Italian pairing of Facchini and Zucchelli were found to be cheating by 'foot tapping'. Second, the Italians, minus the disgraced pair came back from an apparently hopeless margin to defeat the Americans in the final.

The most publicised deal, possibly in bridge history, was the one below, which kick-started the Italian recovery:

North/South Game. Dealer East.

	♠ QJ8	
	♥ AJ965	
	♦ K82	
	♣ AQ	
♠ 7652	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W S E S </div>	♠ 43
♥ K432		♥ Q1087
♦ J53		♦ Q1064
♣ K10		♣ 754
	♠ AK109	
	♥ —	
	♦ A97	
	♣ J98632	

The Americans bid and made 6NT.

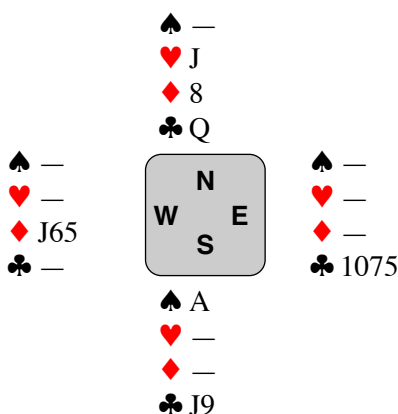
Belladonna and Garozzo, after a sequence of fourteen bids, ended in 7♣.

An audience of 700, watching the drama on closed circuit TV, saw Giorgio's mobile features register a series of emotions. First, as dummy went down, acute dismay, then hope when he saw the ♣10 appear at trick two, followed by suspense as he waited for Billy Eisenberg to play to dummy's ♣Q. Was Edwin Kantar's ♣10 a true card? Would the ♣K really drop on the ♣A?

When it did, Belladonna, a devout Catholic, quickly crossed himself. His face was wreathed in smiles.

The grand slam was made and Italy retained the Bermuda Bowl. And yet, even with so lucky a distribution, the contract might have been defeated.

As several experts were quick to point out, Kantar had everything to gain and nothing to lose by going up with the ♣K at once. If the ♣K were bare, the grand slam could still be made. Declarer would shorten his trumps by ruffing two hearts, cash two diamonds and three spades, and with the lead in his hand, bring about this position.



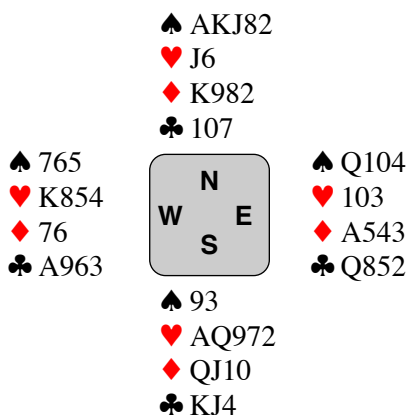
The ♠A is ruffed and East is helpless.

Had Belladonna believed Kantar he might have gone down if, that is, Kantar had played the ♣K. And then the Bermuda Bowl would have been won by America — by 3 IMPs! In such a situation, when your true card will give declarer an easy ride, it is a no-lose play to try something else. Kantar knew this, he was just depressed at seeing ♣AQ in dummy and took his eye off the ball.

MARKS OUT OF TEN

A N expert pair had obtained two good results when this hand occurred:

Game All. Dealer North.



The experts' bidding went:

North	South
1♠	2♥
2♠	3NT
all pass	

West, a young lady, led the seven of diamonds. East ducked and the queen won. A spade was led to the ace followed by the jack of hearts which was allowed to win. The queen of hearts was unsuccessfully finessed and a spade came back. Declarer had now got himself into a twist so he decided to play the king. A diamond was led and the jack won. Three rounds of hearts were cashed and then declarer exited with a diamond. East won and cashed the queen of spades. A club now gave South an unpleasant guess but he got it right and made nine tricks.

North growled: "You play like a one-armed wall-paper hang-

er. You should lead a heart towards the jack at trick two.”

South angrily tried to defend his line of play but it was a half-hearted effort because he knew that he was culpable. Instead, he resorted to counter-abuse.

The opponents politely said nothing. As it was the final board of the round, West opened her score card and wrote down in the column headed “Estimated Score” 5, 5 and 1. This caught the eye of South and probably because he was losing the argument he rudely said: “Your estimating is wrong. I presume you are scoring out of ten?”

“Yes,” demurely replied the young lady. “Well then,” said the expert, “the first two results were certainly above average for us and although the third board may not be very good for you it is certainly worth more than one.”

“I am afraid that you misunderstand my method,” West replied. “I am not estimating the result of the board. I am awarding charm points to opponents out of a maximum of ten.”



When Ron Met Bob...

UNLIKE most players, American bridge professional Ron Andersen was famous not just for meticulously carrying round his score sheet, but most notably for having about his person a red pen and a blue pen. When asked about this, he was always happy to explain that the blue pen was to jot down his plus scores during the session and the red one for any minus boards.

During a prestigious tournament in the United States, the great Bob Hamman made his way to Ron Andersen's table and sat down in the West seat.

In his unmistakably laid back southern drawl, he slowly leaned forward to where Ron was sitting North and said: “You can put away your blue pen, Ron.”

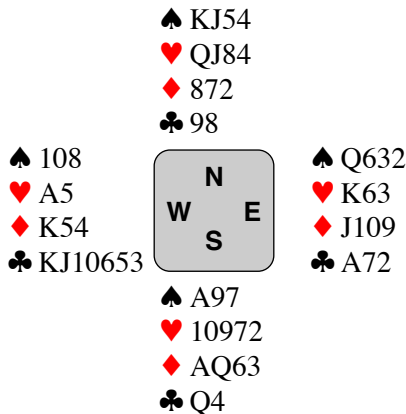
BRIDGE TRIVIA QUIZ

TEST your knowledge of bridge trivia with the following extensive quiz. Answers begin on [page 162](#).

- (1) You hold: AKQ10x opposite a singleton 2. Your best play for five tricks is? [To Answer](#)
 - (a) finesse the ten
 - (b) play for the drop
 - (c) ask your left-hand opponent what his holding is
 - (d) ask the kibitzer what your right-hand opponent's holding is

- (2) Which of these pairs employed the dreaded 'Black Club' system? [To Answer](#)
 - (a) Billy Eisenberg-Bob Hamman
 - (b) Sami Kehela-Eric Murray
 - (c) Leandro Burgay-Benito Bianchi
 - (d) Harry Creed-Michael Schoenborn

- (3) Observe the following lay-out from the 1950 Bermuda Bowl:



West	North	East	South
<i>Werner</i>	<i>J. Tarlo</i>	<i>Kock</i>	<i>Harrison-Gray</i>
	pass	pass	1NT
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

How many tricks did Harrison-Gray make? [To Answer](#)

(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 3 (d) 1

- (4) Mrs Guggenheim is a fictional bridge player created by?
[To Answer](#)

(a) Victor Mollo
(b) Terence Reese
(c) S. J. Simon
(d) Harrison-Gray

- (5) You are Howard Schenken (just for a moment). It is 1950 and you are playing two Icelanders in the Bermuda Bowl. You are also North and facing John Crawford, South. You hear the bidding:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
pass	2♦	pass	3♣
pass	3NT	pass	4♦
pass	?		

OK, Howard, what do you bid now, holding?

♠ AQJ8
♥ 102
♦ QJ1086
♣ Q7

(a) 5♦ (b) 6♦ (c) 4♠ (d) 4NT [To Answers](#)

- (6) 'Bamberger' refers to? [To Answer](#)
(a) a form of Gerber which is used when clubs are trumps
(b) a trophy awarded annually for the Bermuda Bowl Regional participant playing the most sessions, yet winning the fewest master points
(c) a hamburger with cheese seen only on children's menus
(d) a point count system that requires 52 points to produce a small slam.
- (7) You hold: AQxxxx opposite J9. Needing five tricks in the suit, you should? [To Answer](#)
(a) finesse the queen
(b) lead low to the jack
(c) lead low to the nine
(d) play the ace first
- (8) Which one of these players was a member of *both* the Four Horsemen and the Four Aces bridge teams?
[To Answer](#)
(a) David Burnstine
(b) Howard Schenken
(c) Richard Frey
(d) P. Hal Sims
- (9) Which pair played the 'Little Major'? [To Answer](#)
- (10) Who is the leading Master Point holder in the W.B.F. rankings?
[To Answer](#)
- (11) Where and when were the rules and scoring table first set down, and by whom? [To Answer](#)
- (12) From what period do the costumes of court cards come?
[To Answer](#)
- (13) Who is credited with developing the canapé style of bidding?
[To Answer](#)
- (14) Who were the original six members of the Dallas Aces?
[To Answer](#)
- (15) Who were the first ever winners of the Bermuda Bowl in 1950? [To Answer](#)

ANSWERS

- (1) Answer (b). Play for the drop. Just fractionally over the finesse — a total chance of roughly 36%. The finesse is not 50% because of the possible bad breaks that deprive you of your fifth winner. Answer (c) is flawed in your inability to determine whether or not left-hand opponent will lie to you. Answer (d) is handicapped by kibitzer's notoriously poor eyesight. [To Question](#)

- (2) Answer (a). Billy Eisenberg and Bob Hamman employed the 'Black Club' in the 1971 World Championship. [To Question](#)

- (3) Answer (d) 1. Evidently Werner led the jack of clubs. Kock won with the ace and returned the jack of diamonds. Harrison-Gray took the ace and could have cashed two spade tricks to hold his loss to 700 points. However, hoping for better things, he took the spade finesse — when this lost the opponents had a total of eleven tricks but in cashing them Harrison-Gray was squeezed. In the event, West made the last trick with the ten of spades. [To Question](#)

- (4) Answer (c) S.J. "Skid" Simon (1904-1948) whose bridge books *Why You Lose at Bridge* and *Cut for Partners* depict the misadventures of Mrs Guggenheim, Futile Willy, Mr Smug and the Unlucky Expert. [To Question](#)

- (5) Answer (d) 4NT. This was good and bad all at once. Crawford (South) held

♠ 3
 ♥ AKQ84
 ♦ A95
 ♣ AJ54

and he passed 4NT. Howard Schenken (you) received a spade lead into his tenace and the king came up. All Schenken had to do to make 4NT was to play the queen of clubs at trick two.

Instead he passed the queen of diamonds and set himself up to go one down: for if the queen holds the trick declarer's communications are in a tangle and ten tricks are no longer certain. Unfortunately for the European team, it didn't happen and Werner misplayed the hand in five hearts to go three down when he might well have made it. [To Question](#)

- (6) Answer (d). Bamberger is a point count system that requires 52 points to produce a probable slam on power alone.

An ace = 7 pts, king = 5 pts, queen = 3 pts, jack = 1 pt.

[To Question](#)

- (7) Answer (b). Lead low to the jack, a 75% chance.

[To Question](#)

- (8) Answer (a) David Burnstine. The Four Horsemen were a team formed in the early 1930s to challenge the Culbertson group. P. Hal Sims organised the squad which was composed of Sims, Willard Karn, Oswald Jacoby and Burnstine. The Four Aces dominated USA bridge in the mid-1930s: they were Burnstine, Jacoby, Frey and Schenken.

[To Question](#)

- (9) Jeremy Flint-Terence Reese. [To Question](#)

- (10) Bob Hamman (USA). [To Question](#)

- (11) On board the *Finland* cruiser, 31 October 1925, by Harold S. Vanderbilt. [To Question](#)

- (12) 16th Century — Henry VIII. [To Question](#)

- (13) Pierre Albarran of France. [To Question](#)

- (14) R. Wolff, J. Jacoby, R. Goldman, W. Eisenberg, M. Lawrence, R. Hamman. [To Question](#)

- (15) United States — J. Crawford, C. Goren, G. Rapee, H. Schenken, S. Silodor, S. Stayman. [To Question](#)

THE EARLY DAYS

THE first recorded 'International' took place in 1930. The contestants did not constitute national teams as the encounter was the result of a challenge from Lt. Col. Walter Buller to Ely Culbertson. The latter's teammates were Josephine Culbertson, Theodore Lightner and Waldemar von Zedtwitz. The other members of Buller's team were Mrs. Gordon Evers, Cedric Kehoe and Dr. Wood-Hill. Although all were comparatively good players, if trials had been held it is likely that none of the English team would have been selected.

Buller was a good player of the cards, but a man of inflexible opinion. An example is a comment in his introduction to the record of the match, which was "...it is clear that in the circumstances [our loss] could not be regarded as serious or in any way decisive."

The result of the match of 200 hands was a victory for the Culbertson team by 4,845 points. As will be noticed, scoring was by aggregate points. There was no bonus for a part-score, but honors were scored. Some of the English players might have been influenced in their bidding by the honors they held. Doubled undertricks were on a different scale than the present one. An overtrick counted 50 points, so if you bid three spades and made nine tricks you scored 90 points, but if you bid two spades and made the same nine tricks you scored 110 points. Scoring the hands according to the table we use today, the aggregate margin becomes 5,200 points, which converts to 155 IMPs.

It is interesting to note that there was a female member in each team.

The English line-up was Buller/Gordon Evers, Kehoe/Wood-Hill throughout. For the first 144 hands Josephine Culbertson was partnered by von Zedtwitz, and Culbertson/Lightner played together. Hands 145 to 172 saw the two Culbertsons playing together, while from 173 to the end Josephine Culbertson was partnered by Lightner.

One's first impression is the lack of bidding discipline. You bid what you thought you could make, your partner bid what he

thought he could make, based on what he thought you thought you could make. The Americans were rather better, although here is a classic blunder by Culbertson. On Hand 14 he was dealer at favorable vulnerability. He opened with a bid of three spades on:

♠ AQJ942
♥ K3
♦ AK1095
♣ —

and over partner's four spades he bid five diamonds. The contract of five spades was two down. Buller opened the same hand with four spades and on a different lead made twelve tricks.

Mrs. Gordon Evers matched Culbertson on Hand 106. West dealt at favorable vulnerability and bid one diamond. After a pass Mrs. Gordon Evers bid one spade on:

♠ QJ1074
♥ KQ1084
♦ A
♣ 94

Buller rebid one no trump and she now bid three hearts. When Buller bid four hearts she made a slam try with five hearts. The result was one down. In the other room von Zedtwitz made eleven tricks in a contract of four hearts. Kehoe led the king of clubs. Dummy's holding was J1043. Wood-Hill held A8 and overtook the king, so establishing a club for declarer's eleventh trick.

Culbertson was again adventurous in Hand 143. At favorable vulnerability Lightner, as dealer, opened with one spade on:

♠ AQJ75
♥ 53
♦ K1092
♣ 52

to which Culbertson responded three hearts on:

♠ K8
♥ KJ1084
♦ 7
♣ AK1098

rebidding four clubs over Lightner's three no trumps. After a preference to four hearts he bid six hearts. Mrs. Gordon Evers doubled and he redoubled — result three down, for although the doubler only held two aces her partner also held Qxx of hearts.

Hand 5 showed considerable optimism on both sides. With neither side vulnerable South, dealer, held:

♠ Q103
♥ K864
♦ Q53
♣ Q105

In each room North opened on:

♠ A8
♥ AJ107
♦ 92
♣ KJ873

and in each case the contract was three no trumps, three down.

Hand 101 is an example of the differences in valuation, then and now. At love all South dealt and passed in both rooms on:

♠ KQ9
♥ 6
♦ QJ8642
♣ KQ7

On Hand 15, at favorable vulnerability, South opened as third hand one spade in both rooms. West passed. In Room Two Wood-Hill passed on:

♠ 97
 ♥ J842
 ♦ K42
 ♣ AJ65

In Room One the response was one no trump and on von Zedtwitz's rebid of two hearts Josephine Culbertson went straight to four hearts. Ten tricks were made.

Possibly Wood-Hill had some justification, for two hands later Kehoe as dealer, neither side vulnerable, opened one spade on:

♠ AJ92
 ♥ 8765
 ♦ K10
 ♣ K92

The final contract was three spades, three down. In the other room everyone passed.

Another example of the Kehoe/Wood-Hill rapport was Hand 44. East dealt, with both side vulnerable. In each room the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 ♠	pass	pass
all pass		2 ♦	2 ♥

North held:

♠ QJ10842
 ♥ AKJ2
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 63

In Room One Josephine Culbertson bid four hearts. In Room Two Wood-Hill passed. As expected, ten tricks were made.

Hand 35 was quite amusing:

Dealer North. East/West Game.

	♠ Q92	
	♥ A1032	
	♦ Q102	
	♣ 875	
♠ KJ8764		♠ A
♥ 84		♥ K75
♦ A4		♦ K863
♣ Q104		♣ AJ962
	♠ 1053	
	♥ QJ96	
	♦ J975	
	♣ K3	

West	North	East	South
<i>Buller</i>	<i>Culberts'n Evers</i>		<i>von Zedtwitz</i>
	pass	1♣	pass
2♠	pass	2NT	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	all pass

North led the two of diamonds, won with dummy's king. The ace of spades was cashed and a diamond led to the ace. The king and jack of spades were then led, North's queen winning. The queen of diamonds was ruffed by declarer who finessed the queen of clubs. This lost to South's king. Declarer claimed the rest, this being conceded. What of the ace of hearts?

In the other room the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
<i>Culberts'n</i>	<i>Wood-Hill</i>	<i>Lightner</i>	<i>Kehoe</i>
	pass	1♣	1NT
dbl	2NT	dbl	3♦
3♠	pass	3NT	all pass

The six of hearts was led. North won with the ace and returned a diamond in an effort to remove dummy's entry. Lightner won with dummy's ace and led the queen of clubs. South won and played the queen of hearts. Lightner won with the king and had nine tricks. But what would he have done had South ducked the first round of clubs (especially if he held Kxx)? Now declarer's communications would be in a mess and he could no longer guarantee nine tricks. The correct play is to take the king of diamonds at the second trick and start clubs from hand, preferably after first playing the ace of spades.

The only nine-card suit dealt was a tragedy for America. It was Hand 80. North (Lightner) held:

♠ A109865432
♥ J5
♦ 9
♣ 7

while Culbertson (South) held:

♠ K
♥ AK
♦ AQJ764
♣ A984

West	North	East	South
		pass	1♦
pass	1♠	pass	3NT
pass	6♠	pass	7♠
pass	pass	dbl	all pass

As both sides were vulnerable and East held QJ7 of spades that cost 200 points. In the other room the bidding was: two diamonds – four spades – six spades. A 2-1 break is a 78% chance.

Lightner could not complain that he did not hold long suits. On Hand 77 as North he held:

♠ —
 ♥ 75
 ♦ A10986532
 ♣ Q95

The opponents played in three spades, making nine tricks. In the other room South played in three hearts, making seven tricks.

Nine hands later West (Buller and Josephine Culbertson) held:

♠ —
 ♥ K2
 ♦ KQ986543
 ♣ Q84

South in Room One (Culbertson) played in five spades doubled and made his contract on atrocious defense by Mrs. Gordon Evers. In Room Two Dr. Wood-Hill was in four spades doubled and was one down.

Another eight-card suit was on Hand 36, where South held:

♠ —
 ♥ 7
 ♦ QJ1097543
 ♣ J876

With both sides vulnerable the bidding in Room One was:

West	North	East	South
		2♣	pass
3♠	pass	5♠	pass
6♠	all pass		

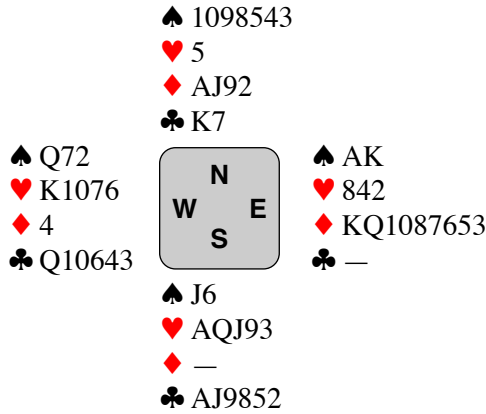
In Room Two the auction was:

West	North	East	South
		1♣	pass
1♠	2♥	4♠	5♦
5♠	all pass		

With the ace-king of hearts missing Culbertson made his five spade contract while Buller failed in six spades.

Our final eight-card suit was on hand 104.

Dealer East. Game All.



This was the auction in Room One:

West	North	East	South
		3♦	4♣
dbl	pass	pass	4♥
dbl	4♠	dbl	all pass

East led the king of diamonds and Lightner made nine tricks.
Room Two:

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♥
pass	1♠	2♦	4♣
dbl	all pass		

The four of diamonds was led and Kehoe made eight tricks.

Finally we consider Hand 126:

Dealer West. North/South Game.

	♠ Q53	
	♥ J97	
	♦ AQ73	
	♣ QJ9	
♠ AKJ2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS </div> </div>	♠ 10876
♥ AKQ4		♥ 10532
♦ KJ2		♦ 9865
♣ 42		♣ 8
	♠ 94	
	♥ 86	
	♦ 104	
	♣ AK107653	

In Room Two the bidding was:

West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	pass	2♣
dbl	pass	2♠	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	all pass

Josephine Culbertson was two down, but the Americans won on the hand. As West Buller opened two no trump, passed all round. Lightner found the queen of clubs opening lead.

On the run of the clubs Buller discarded four spades and two diamonds from dummy. From his own hand he discarded the two of diamonds, the two of spades, the jack of spades, the queen of hearts and the king of hearts.

North had kept his four diamonds and the lead by South of the ten of diamonds enabled him to make all of them. Buller made two tricks, which, after all, was all he had bid.

There were no hands where the bidding or play would be noteworthy by today's standards. This is the reason why so many hands with bad results are now discussed. After all, it would be tedious to give the run-of-the-mill hands.

The general impression was that Josephine Culbertson was the player who gave the best and most consistent performance.

The English captain attacked the auction like a Bull(er) at the gate. He, and his team, regarded bridge as a game which one did one's best to win, but which was there to be enjoyed. In their view any bidding system which employed a number of conventions spoiled the game. They may have been right, but they were incorrect in considering that conventions are inefficient.

ALEC TRAUB

Hand Signals

TWO dear old ladies were playing in a pairs contest and to their table came a couple of young university players.

"We are playing a modified version of the Precision Club," said one of them. "Do you wish us to alert?"

"Yes please" said one lady, "and we will do the same for you."

"Please yourself," said the student.

The bidding then proceeded:

"One club," from one student.

Tap-tap from his partner.

"What does that mean?"

"At least 16 points, not necessarily based upon a club suit."

"Thank you, pass."

"One heart."

Tap-tap from his partner.

A similar procedure was conducted throughout the entire auction, but eventually the students finished in six hearts.

One dear old lady carefully picked up her cards and led one of them face down. Tap-tap went her partner's knuckles on the table.

"What's that for?" said declarer.

"My partner is leading a singleton."

"How do you know?"

"She led it with her left hand," and seeing an incredulous expression on declarer's face, she hurriedly added: "it is disclosed on our convention card" — and so it was.

PRACTICAL BIDDING ADVICE

IT'S not easy to say what separates winners from losers at bridge. Many factors contribute: experience, desire, concentration, partnership efficiency, and luck, in addition to an aptitude for the game.

When someone asks me how he can improve his scores, however, I have to fall back on Hugh Kelsey's standby, "Cut down on the avoidable errors." Let me attempt to identify some things that contribute to bad results (in the auction).

DON'T BE CONVENTION-HAPPY

Before you add a convention to your system, apply a four-fold test:

- (a) Is the convention effective? Does it accomplish its purpose?
- (b) How often do you get to use it? The most popular come up all the time. A lot of people didn't like the negative double when it was first introduced, but it handled a common problem well and now everybody plays it.
- (c) Does the convention displace a valuable natural bid? One of the main drawbacks to using Gerber is that a natural 4♣ may be too useful to give up. It is a bid that often initiates cue-bidding. And if you open 1♠ on:

♠ AKJ53

♥ A4

♦ 8

♣ AQ864

and partner raises to 2♠, you can describe your hand accurately with a jump to 4♣. Knowing you have a big black two-suiter with slam interest, partner might bid 7♣ with all the right cards:

♠ Q72
♥ 765
♦ A65
♣ K973

- (d) Is the convention easy to remember? If not, the strain on you may be too costly.

DON'T BE ILL-DISCIPLINED

Discipline is a key word in good bidding; there are dozens of illustrations. For instance, players often allow an opposing preempt to goad them into an unsound action. Say you have:

♠ KJ43
♥ 54
♦ AK43
♣ K53

You open 1♦, partner responds 1♠ and right-hand opponent leaps inconveniently to 4♥. Since you were about to raise only to 2♠, you can hardly bid 4♠ now just because the auction is at the four level. pass and let partner have the next say. If he doubles 4♥, suggesting a fair hand, you can consider bidding.

Next you hold:

♠ Q7632
♥ 4
♦ AQ7
♣ Q765

Partner opens 1♥, you respond 1♠, he rebids 2♥. Don't bid 2NT — make a disciplined pass. The danger signals are flying (no fit, no extra high cards), so get out in the lowest playable spot and hope for a plus. Refusing to be stubborn in the face of a misfit is a sign of maturity.

DON'T MASTERMIND

Masterminding means making a premature decision about your prospects, or trying to figure out what everybody at the table holds instead of simply bidding your own cards.

Take this example:

West	North	East	South
			1♣
pass	1♠	pass	2♠
pass	5NT	pass	?

South held:

♠ AK109
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ QJ4
 ♣ 10642

Clearly, North may be playing South for a little better club holding. But the expert grits his teeth and bids 7♠ anyway. “Mine is not to reason why.” “Partner asked about the top trumps and I’ve got ‘em. I won’t be a genius.” (As it happened, justice was served — the grand slam was cold.)

Suppose you pick up:

♠ K4
 ♥ K64
 ♦ QJ965
 ♣ AJ6

You	Partner
	1♠
2♦	2♥
3NT	4♥
?	

Might you make a slam? Certainly, partner could have a suitable hand like:

♠ AQ876
♥ QJ10752
♦ A
♣ 4

Of course, he could also have:

♠ AQ8763
♥ QJ752
♦ K
♣ 4

The point is, you have no idea what's right, so make a try for slam by cue-bidding 5♣ and let partner exercise his judgement. Two heads are better than one!

AVOID THE 'BID WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN' SYNDROME

To enter the auction, you need a reason. For instance, if you are dealer and hold:

♠ AQ875
♥ A75
♦ QJ4
♣ 54

you open 1♠ because the odds on your side having a game justify that action. However, if right-hand opponent opens 1♣, and you have:

♠ Q32
♥ Q5
♦ KJ652
♣ 632

you should pass. What is the point of bidding 1♦? Is this lead directing? Pre-emptive? Will it help your side buy the contract?

Does the diamond suit offer a good chance of competing for a part-score? Do you want to prepare the way for a sacrifice with this hand?

You have nothing to gain by bidding and a lot to lose. (You might get doubled; you might give away information the opponents could use in the bidding or play; you might make it harder to find a superior fit in spades.)

WATCH OUT FOR THE POINT-COUNT TRAP

Relying on high-card points can be fatal. One of the world's great partnerships conducted this auction as East/West:

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♥	dbl	pass
3♦	pass	6♦	all pass

♠ K53	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W S E S </div>	♠ J742
♥ —		♥ AJ72
♦ KQ10642		♦ AJ5
♣ Q984		♣ A7

West's opening bid was doubtful, but it looks as if East was seduced by the point-count. What he actually had was three aces. All three of his jacks were poor cards for slam purposes.

In the 1979 Bermuda Bowl, Lauria of Italy held:

♠ QJ
♥ Q6
♦ K64
♣ QJ9854

With his side vulnerable, his partner (Garozzo) opened 1♦. right-hand opponent doubled, and Lauria redoubled — a questionable move when his 11 points included only half a defensive trick. Sure enough, left-hand opponent jumped to 4♠.

passed back to Lauria. Considering himself forced to act, Lauria doubled 4♠ and found that it could not be beaten. Benito was not pleased with his prodigy!

DON'T OVERBID YOUR HIGH CARDS

Suppose you hold:

♠ AK65
♥ —
♦ KJ654
♣ K765

You open 1♦, and partner responds 1♠. It is true that you will have a good play for game if partner has as little as:

♠ Q7432
♥ 543
♦ Q8
♣ Q32

but you must bid only 3♠. If you do any more, partner will surely go to 6♠ with:

♠ J9742
♥ AKJ
♦ 932
♣ A2

when even 5♠ may be too high.

Six excellent rules to follow, which when put together could be summarized in two words: Good judgement.

FRANK STEWART

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND'S HAND

BRIDGE folklore is not exactly littered with famous hands, but one which has great notoriety involved the Duke of Cumberland. Having distilled the apocryphal from realistic accounts, the following appears to be the truth...

The story goes that the Duke of Cumberland, son of George III, was playing whist for high stakes in the gaming rooms at Bath. On one deal he picked up:

♠ AKQ
♥ AKQJ
♦ AK
♣ KJ97

The last card was turned up for trumps — a club. It was the Duke's lead and he laid down the seven of clubs, presumably with the idea of knocking out trumps to protect his high cards. At this point, his opponents bet him that he would not take a trick, and a large sum was agreed. This was the deal:

	♠ J109876	
	♥ 109876	
	♦ QJ	
	♣ —	
♠ —	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 5432
♥ —		♥ 5432
♦ 1098765432		♦ —
♣ AQ108		♣ 65432
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ AKQJ	
	♦ AK	
	♣ KJ97	

West takes the first trick with the eight of clubs and returns a diamond, which East ruffs. East plays a trump through South's tenaces. Another diamond from West — ruff — trump return taken by West who then plays the ace of trumps to drop the king. At this point, his diamonds are established.

The large sum quoted above is believed to be £10,000 — not a bad reward for a bit of skulduggery. One wonders if the duke ever suspected. Of course, you might argue that whist hands should not be included, but we thought it required a bridge mind to set the trap for the Duke. A fool and his money...



Vocal Signals

PARTNER leads an Ace and you are looking at 1098 in the suit. You want to discourage, but know he will read the eight as a “come-on” signal. Here's how you avoid the problem!

Drop the card ‘accidentally’ on the floor, and in going to pick it up announce to everyone, “small card coming up.” It's easy when you know how!



“Snap! What do you mean, snap?”

WHEN BRITAIN WON THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

In January 1955, in New York, Great Britain defeated the U.S.A. for the Open Championship of the World by 5,420 aggregate points over 224 boards.

The players in 1955:

Great Britain:

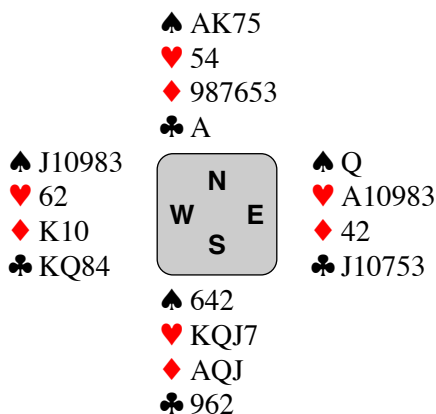
Terence Reese	Boris Schapiro
Leslie Dodds	Kenneth Konstam
Adam Meredith	Jordanis Pavlides

U. S. A.:

Milton Ellenby	Clifford Bishop
William Rosen	Lew Mathe
John Moran	Alvin Roth

Let us review some of the hands from that encounter with a slightly critical eye.

Board 1. *Love All. Dealer North.*



West	North	East	South
<i>Rosen</i>	<i>Schapiro</i>	<i>Mathe</i>	<i>Reese</i>
	1♦	1♥	dbl
pass	pass	2♣	2♦
3♣	3♦	all pass	

Eleven tricks were made after the queen of spades lead. In the replay the Americans reached three no trumps but made only eight tricks, so Great Britain were off to a good start. It is doubtful whether a modern pair would reach the good contract of five diamonds, but there is no defense because East/West cannot get to their spade trick in time.

Board 11. *Love All. Dealer South.*

	♠ 92	
	♥ AQ752	
	♦ A103	
	♣ K85	
♠ Q4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> WS</div> </div> </div>	♠ AKJ10863
♥ J843		♥ 109
♦ J862		♦ —
♣ Q92		♣ AJ64
	♠ 75	
	♥ K6	
	♦ KQ9754	
	♣ 1073	

Room One

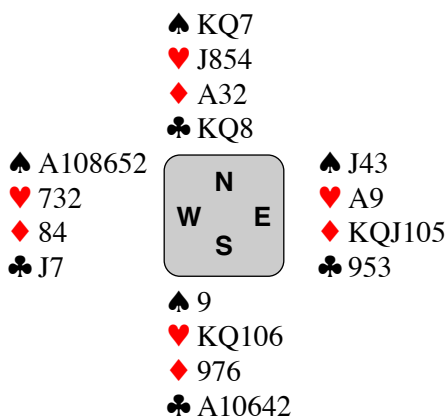
West	North	East	South
<i>Rosen</i>	<i>Schapiro</i>	<i>Mathe</i>	<i>Reese</i>
			pass
pass	1NT	dbl	2NT
pass	pass	3♠	all pass

The British pair's aggressive bidding prevented Lew Mathe from finding the best spot. In the replay North opened one heart

and Kenneth Konstam found the value-for-money bid of four spades which South doubled.

The king of hearts was led and the suit continued. North won and switched to a trump. Declarer won in hand and crossed to dummy with a trump. It was then safe to lead the eight of hearts for a ruffing finesse. With the heart jack set up in dummy it was then simply a question of how to reach it. The solution was to lead the jack of clubs. North won and tried to cash his ace of diamonds — unlucky. Konstam's declarer play gave him all the chances — the clubs 3-3, the club king being taken by mistake, or the club ten with South.

Board 29. *Game All. Dealer North.*



Room One

West	North	East	South
<i>Roth</i>	<i>Schapiro</i>	<i>Ellenby</i>	<i>Reese</i>
	1♣	2♦	3♣
all pass			

Ellenby's weak jump overcall stopped Reese from showing his heart suit. A normal overcall of one diamond in the other room allowed Moran to bid one heart and a contract of four

hearts was reached. Adam Meredith led the eight of diamonds. Declarer held off the first round but won the second. He then led the king of spades. Meredith won and switched to the jack of clubs so the Americans scored +620.

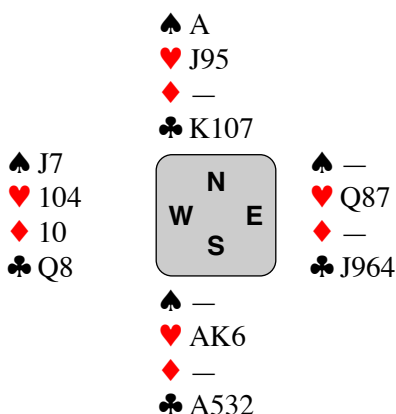
East should play the jack of spades under dummy's king. As he had supported spades during the auction it must be a suit preference signal. With the ace of diamonds on view in dummy the quick entry must be in the next higher-ranking suit — trumps!

Board 33. *Love All. Dealer North.*

	♠ AQ84	
	♥ J95	
	♦ 542	
	♣ K107	
♠ J9753	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 10
♥ 104		♥ Q8732
♦ AQ103		♦ K76
♣ Q8		♣ J964
	♠ K62	
	♥ AK6	
	♦ J98	
	♣ A532	

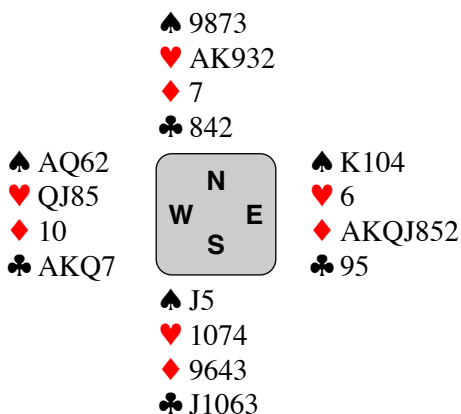
Three no trumps was bid in both rooms. Schapiro led the five of spades. Roth went up with the queen and ducked a club to West. The switch to the heart ten was helpful to declarer but not fatal for the defense, there were still only eight tricks.

In the replay Meredith played the hand superbly. He won the first trick in hand and led the jack of diamonds. West took and continued with the nine of spades. Dummy won and a second diamond was played. A third spade and a third diamond followed. West won and did not make the mistake of cashing the thirteenth diamond because it would have squeezed his partner in this position:



Instead, Ellenby led the seven of spades. East discarded a heart and declarer likewise. A heart to the ace allowed declarer to lead a club to the ten. East won and returned a club. Meredith read the position well by winning with the ace and cashing the king of hearts felling East's queen for the contract.

Board 37. *North/South Game. Dealer North.*

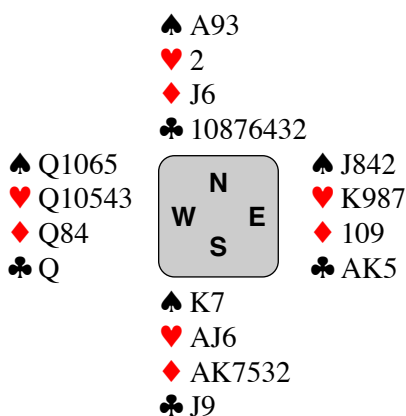


This hand was apparently unbiddable in 1955. Both teams reached six no trumps. When Leslie Dodds did not double with the North cards, his partner, Adam Meredith, guessed wrongly

and led a spade so the Americans scored 1,020. Even if North had doubled, South would still have had the same choice of which major suit to lead because Rosen had opened three no trumps with the East cards and Ellenby had raised this directly to six.

In the other room Schapiro had forced with two hearts when Konstam had opened one diamond. He was unlucky because Lew Mathe had no difficulty in finding the killing lead of the ace of hearts, but he was careful not to double, just in case seven diamonds could be made.

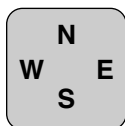
Board 74. *Game All. Dealer East.*



In Room One, Reese and Schapiro played safely in three clubs scoring 130. In Room Two the Americans, Mathe and Bishop, climbed to three no trumps with the latter as declarer. Meredith led the four of hearts and declarer won East's king. A low diamond was played forcing West to play the queen. It was too much to expect West to find the queen of clubs return so he chose a spade. Foreseeing the possibility of a squeeze, he chose the queen of spades as his exit. He was thus in no trouble in finding spade discards when declarer ran his diamonds.

Here is a quiz hand for you:

♠ Q542		♠ AJ93
♥ A10		♥ KJ8743
♦ —		♦ A3
♣ AKJ10976		♣ 4

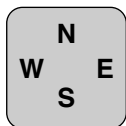


Terence Reese became declarer in six clubs. North led the nine of diamonds after he had made a weak jump overcall in the suit. How would you plan the play?

Reese played low from dummy, ruffed and cashed the ace and king of clubs. When the queen did not fall he cashed the ace of hearts on which North showed out. The king of hearts was also cashed and the jack led forcing South to cover. Declarer ruffed and threw South in with a trump. Declarer was thereby assured of two entries to dummy to set up his heart suit to dispose of his spade losers. An inferior line of play, that of finessing the jack of clubs, was followed in the other room. It did not matter as South had the queen so there was no swing.

Board 182. *East/West Game. Dealer East.*

	♠ J84	
	♥ K743	
	♦ KJ	
	♣ Q985	
♠ A9632		♠ KQ7
♥ AQ		♥ 96
♦ Q653		♦ 1042
♣ 64		♣ AKJ107



With no adverse bidding, Bishop and Mathe reached four spades. Schapiro led the four of spades. Bishop played the

queen and ace of trumps. He then finessed the jack of clubs. Fearing that Reese was capable of ducking with the queen of clubs, he cashed the ace and ruffed a club. The king of spades was the entry for the two club winners. In the replay Roth's weak jump bid of two hearts was raised to four. Meredith doubled and the British pair achieved three down +500, so Great Britain lost 120 on the board.

Even if their bidding was, at times, a little agricultural, the old-timers were full of tricks in play and defense. Here is an example:

Board 183. *Game All. Dealer South.*

	♠ K742	
	♥ Q109	
	♦ 752	
	♣ A84	
♠ J5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ A86
♥ 762		♥ AKJ3
♦ 963		♦ AJ84
♣ KQ972		♣ J6
	♠ Q1093	
	♥ 854	
	♦ KQ10	
	♣ 1053	

Lew Mathe opened one no trump with the East hand and was allowed to play there. Reese led the ten of spades which held the trick. The spade continuation was won by North with the king. Schapiro then switched to a diamond. Declarer played small and South won deceptively with the queen, a third spade lead cleared the suit. Declarer led the jack of clubs which he overtook in dummy — North ducked. The nine of diamonds was finessed so Reese won and cashed the fourth spade. A low club put declarer to the test. He guessed wrongly by playing the queen so the Americans conceded 100.

This was the bidding in the other room:

West	North	East	South
<i>Meredith</i>	<i>Ellenby</i>	<i>Konstam</i>	<i>Bishop</i>
			pass
pass	pass	1♦	pass
1NT	pass	3NT	all pass

The four of spades was led and ducked to the queen. The spade continuation was taken. The ace of hearts was cashed and the jack of clubs led. When Meredith overtook this with the king, North thought that he was trying to steal his ninth trick so he played the ace. Subsequently, declarer finessed the nine of clubs and the jack of hearts for his contract. If you bid like that you have to play to the maximum!

Do you think that the British team at their peak would have given the current world champions a run for their money?

DEREK RIMINGTON



Heard in the Club

WELL partner, at least you have taught me something — how to make a small fortune. I come in with a large fortune and cut you for a few rubbers.”

NATURALS VS. SCIENTISTS

In 1990 Demetri Marchessini, an avid supporter of less convoluted methods, put his money where his mouth was. He staged a match between his “Naturals” and a team of so-called “Scientists”. This was my report on how it went.

IS the game of bridge moving in the right direction? Are standards of bidding today higher than those of thirty years ago?

Everyone would answer ‘yes’ to both questions; everyone, that is, except Demetri Marchessini.

Here is a man who is willing to put his ideas to the test, and what better test is there than a long straight match between the modern scientific approach to the game, represented by:

Paul Soloway (U. S. A) and Bobby Goldman (U. S. A.),
Benito Garozzo (Italy) and Billy Eisenberg (U. S. A.),

and a team playing under Demetri’s rules, i.e. everything ‘natural’:

Tony Forrester (Great Britain), Zia Mahmood (Pakistan),
Bobby Wolff (U. S. A.), Gabriel Chagas (Brazil).

So, what basically was this match intended to prove? Just that too much energy is now devoted to the plethora of bidding systems, multi-purpose openings, relays, defensive bidding and counters to it, and that it is all essentially futile. This is because we can all do as well playing no system whatsoever (not even Stayman and Blackwood) as we could by using all these weapons of modern theory.

Much scepticism was abroad when this match was first mooted, and the cognoscenti were all predicting a landslide win for the Scientists. Believing this, the originator was persuaded to change the structure to three individual matches of 48, 48 and 32 boards, so that if the Naturals were getting a long way behind, people would not lose interest. Notwithstanding the above, I had intended to write this piece as the match was origi-

nally intended — 128 boards ‘head-to-head’, but on reflection that would serve little purpose.

The final, in retrospect unfortunate, change to be made, was to rotate partnerships so that no-one played with any partner for more than 48 boards. This left a lot of hotch-potch pairs playing together for the first (and in most cases, last!) time, serving to direct attention away from the original focal point.

Having said all of that, it was still undeniably true that we had four world-class players allowed all their favorite gadgets against four other world-class players allowed absolutely nothing but their own knowledge of the game. Still everyone predicted a landslide — would they be right?

The first 48 boards featured the following partnerships:

Soloway/Goldman	Chagas/Forrester
Garozzo/Eisenberg	Zia/Wolff

Throughout the match report I intend to try and focus on hands where the absence of method had an effect, rather than on any particular brilliancy by an individual (not that there were too many of these anyway).

The Scientists got off to an excellent start on the first board.

Board 1. *Love All. Dealer North.*

	♠ AKJ74	
	♥ 92	
	♦ Q10	
	♣ K1098	
♠ 6		♠ 8532
♥ AKJ104		♥ 8763
♦ KJ8762		♦ A95
♣ 5		♣ J6
	♠ Q109	
	♥ Q5	
	♦ 43	
	♣ AQ7432	

Chagas and myself saved in 5♠ over 5♥, surprisingly avoided being doubled, lost four tricks and conceded 100. We sat back happily expecting a plus.

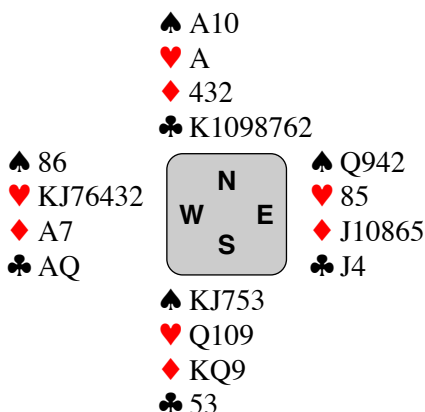
In the other room South responded to 1♠ with a forcing 1NT. Now Zia (West) would surely have used Michaels, but he elected to bid 2♥. It went pass — pass (!) and South bid 3♠; now Zia could have chosen 4♦, but he passed and the resultant — 140 was not a success.

Board 9. *East/West Game. Dealer North.*

	♠ K8742	
	♥ 1043	
	♦ J6	
	♣ KQ3	
♠ 953	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AQJ6
♥ 7652		♥ AK98
♦ 92		♦ Q105
♣ A1082		♣ J4
	♠ 10	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ AK8743	
	♣ 9765	

Defences to 1NT have traditionally given up the ability to compete in a minor, but here I was able to bid 2♦ for +90, my counterpart had to pass and defend 1NT accurately to concede 90. A nice 5 IMPs for ‘no-system’.

The next hand, though, lost those with some interest:
Board 10. *Game All. Dealer East.*



Soloway/Goldman had done well to reach 3NT and score 600. Chagas was faced with this problem:

West	North	East	South
<i>Eisenberg</i>	<i>Chagas</i>	<i>Garozzo</i>	<i>Forrester</i>
1 ♥	2 ♣	pass	pass
3 ♥	?		2 ♠

Wouldn't a take-out double be nice? Without anything obvious to do Chagas decided to pass (unfortunately somewhat slowly) and I did likewise. +100 was poor compensation.

After 10 boards the score was already 17-52 to the Scientists — everyone was laughing at us.

Board 11. *Love All. Dealer South.*

	♠ J4	
	♥ 108643	
	♦ J85	
	♣ KJ9	
♠ 863		♠ 10752
♥ J952		♥ 7
♦ K4		♦ A9762
♣ Q1085		♣ A43
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>	
	♠ AKQ9	
	♥ AKQ	
	♦ Q103	
	♣ 762	

Chagas (North) raised my 2NT to game, and I made nine tricks on a heart(!) lead. A straight 10 IMPs for us, as 4♥ had a similar four losers at the other table. We gave them straight back on the last board of an exciting first set to leave the score 27-63.

Twelve boards played and 90 IMPs turned over. Three boards later the total was 126 as Zia tried an esoteric line in a normal contract for 12 away, and then recovered them by bidding this slam:

Board 14. *Love All. Dealer East.*

	♠ 7632	
	♥ AQ	
	♦ 832	
	♣ 10874	
♠ AQ104		♠ KJ98
♥ —		♥ KJ52
♦ KJ1065		♦ 94
♣ KJ53		♣ A62
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W S E </div>	
	♠ 5	
	♥ 10987643	
	♦ AQ7	
	♣ Q9	

And 13 more when Chagas and myself bid and made 3NT with four of either major cold the other way. But then the hands (and the bridge) settled down so that after 24 boards we were trailing by 11 IMPs (67-78).

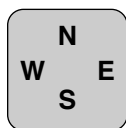
All the players had been guilty of bridge which could only be described as erratic, but this might reasonably be explained by their having to come to terms with the unusual conditions.

Swings continued to come, but I would have to say that they were almost all caused by either faulty card play or bad judgement.

The first 'match' turned on this hand:

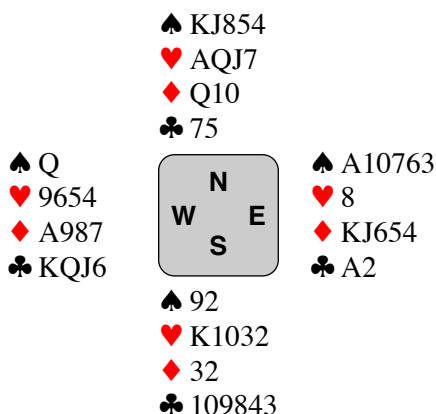
Board 30. *East/West Game. Dealer East.*

♠ Q		♠ A10763
♥ 9654		♥ 8
♦ A987		♦ KJ654
♣ KQJ6		♣ A2



West	East
	1 ♠
2NT	3 ♦
4 ♦	6 ♦

A heart was led to the ace and the ♥Q returned (the suit looked 4-4). Chagas led the ♦K, two, seven, ten, and a diamond to the three and..? If he finessed he needed to be able to ruff two more hearts safely, and not have clubs 5-1; if he played for the drop even my grandmother would have a good shot at making it. Those of you who know Chagas can guess which he did!



One down! 13 IMPs away. If Chagas had been right that would have been 13 IMPs in and victory in the match, for in the event we lost by 25 IMPs.

Tactically the Scientists had played their best line-up, and we had wasted our second best. In the second match we needed to win to keep hopes alive and hence we fielded Zia and myself who were the *only* two of us who had played any boards together, and Chagas/Wolff.

Both pairs produced a stream of good results, culminating in success by over 100 IMPs. Truly astonishing at this standard with regular partnerships playing their beloved methods, but in our case I consider it a near miracle.

A couple of examples of our gains. What would you open:

♠ K108
♥ 72
♦ AQJ10543
♣ 3

second in hand at ‘red’. Eisenberg’s system included a pre-empt which guaranteed two of the top three honors so he chose 3♦. Zia selected 1♦. What happened?

Board 3. *East/West Game. Dealer South.*

	♠ A3	
	♥ A96	
	♦ 98764	
	♣ J96	
♠ K108	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ QJ9
♥ 72		♥ KQ843
♦ AQJ10532		♦ —
♣ 3		♣ AKQ54
	♠ 76542	
	♥ J105	
	♦ K	
	♣ 10872	

We drove to game, perforce, and came up with ten tricks on a very friendly lie of the cards (but not needing the ♦K singleton). Eisenberg made 3♦ + 2, but lost 10 IMPs.

Board 6. *East/West Game. Dealer East.*

	♠ K1073	
	♥ AQ92	
	♦ AQ	
	♣ QJ9	
♠ A9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 54
♥ 876543		♥ K10
♦ 863		♦ KJ10972
♣ 43		♣ 1065
	♠ QJ862	
	♥ J	
	♦ 54	
	♣ AK872	

I was able to open a weak 2♦ as East forcing a 2♠ overcall. Zia raised for some reason, and now Soloway (North) was caught. He knew a slam was likely, but had to play it from his

side, so after checking on aces he tried 6NT. Of course, this bidding rules out a helpful diamond lead, and I chose a club. Some time later he was one down.

The crash-bang-wallop bidding in the other room soon reached 6♠, without giving anything away. It had to be a diamond lead, but a heart was selected. 14 IMPs to the Naturals.

By 24 hands of this match we already led by 80 IMPs and although the heat died down a bit, a steady trickle of IMPs followed in the second half. Although the Scientists played without conviction in the later stages, do not think that they threw large numbers in trying to get points back. The margin was genuine, if that is the right word.

But, of course, we all know that things do not run for you forever, and in the last match it was fairly inevitable that the Scientists would find the right decisions where we found the wrong ones.

By Board 5 we were down by 42 IMPs, and our efforts (mainly those of Zia/Chagas, not surprisingly) at recovering the points were not only unsuccessful, but sometimes downright ludicrous. The chemistry of this last line-up was disastrous, and it proved that 'partnership' is at least as important to pairs with no system as it is to those with one. In fact 'style', as most people know, has to gel at the table and if it does not, all kinds of 'man-made' catastrophes follow.

In the end the margin of the last match was just enough to leave the Naturals with an 'overall' lead, which at least left us with more than a little pride.

There had been huge swings in the card play, general judgement, but not much through lack of method. The Naturals should have had more faith in their own cause, and stuck more rigidly to the original outline suggested by Demetri Marchessini. But, of course, we all knew better, or thought so, and hence the changes.

My final personal view is one of having a chance missed. I would dearly like another shot at this, but with some of the 'changes' I have mentioned above. I hope Demetri is happy with what happened, because I can't help feeling that our 'side' let him down. Maybe we can redress that later.

What has the match proved? In the final analysis, of course, the answer must be “very little”, but, having said that, few would have predicted the closeness of the encounter.

There is little doubt that players aspiring to any higher level must seriously consider the amount of information given away by their systems. The ‘bow and arrow’ approach certainly does not lose as much as nearly all of us would at first believe.

The competitive bidding tools, e.g. competitive, responsive and Sputnik doubles, unassuming cue-bids etc., are the elements of a modern system that I would least like to do without. The absence of them forces you to make silly bids:

West	North	East	South
	1♦	2♠	?

You hold:

♠ Kxx
♥ AQxx
♦ K10xx
♣ Qx

and negative doubles are not available.

Doing without the myriad of gadgets, though, that most of our tournament players consider essential, was little or no problem. OK, we may have drawn a ‘lucky’ 128 boards, but I doubt it — there just are not the number of ‘system’ hands you think there are.

I recommend to everyone to try a ‘no system’ evening to see for yourself. Demetri has proved to me that my energies could be better channelled, and that to a large degree we are all focusing on the wrong elements of the game. Another match against ‘regular pairs’, with ‘regular pairs’ for the Naturals is what is now needed.

The seed has been sown.

TONY FORRESTER

DIARY OF A PALOOKA

*or Confessions of a Bridge Player**

A Roman Catholic Church

I am featured in a medium two shot with the Priest (played by Dave Allen) in the confessional box.

Palooka: Father, I have sinned.

Priest: What was your hand my son?

Palooka: First in hand, as West, I held:

♠ AQJ764

♥ AJ7542

♦ K

♣ —

Priest: You must have liked a good life.

Palooka: I was tempted, Father. Tempted to open two clubs. Then I started thinking (one of the many basic failings of my game) would it help? Would I be able to convey the shape and texture of my hand? Would I get specific information required? Eventually I decided on a more subtle approach. I opened an Acol two spades.

Priest: Go on, my son.

Palooka: With the speed of light the bidding proceeded. No bid. No bid. No bid.

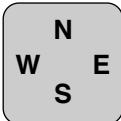
Priest: You were shaken, my son.

Palooka: I was mortified, Father. What a tragedy that this game is only played with four people. A fifth-in-hand might well have re-opened.

Priest: I appreciate the pain, my son — but please continue.

Palooka: I received a club lead, and the dummy went down:

*I use the term loosely, you understand.

♠ AQJ764		♠ 108
♥ AJ7542		♥ K93
♦ K		♦ Q864
♣ —		♣ A973

I discarded the king of diamonds on the ace of clubs. I ran the ten of spades, picking up king to three on my right. The queen of hearts was singleton.

Priest: Making seven.

Palooka: Making seven.

Priest: Perhaps you would have done better to have sent your partner to me.

Palooka: I have omitted one minor detail. Father — hardly worth mentioning but it is only fair that you have the full story.

Priest: What is that, my son?

Palooka: We were playing Benjaminised Acol, Father.

Priest: Benjaminised Acol?

Palooka: A system devised by Albert Benjamin in Scotland, Father, to sow seeds of dissent amongst the English. It is an integral part of their campaign for self-government: two spades is a *weak* bid.

Priest: You *have* sinned, my son.

Palooka: Mortally.

Priest: Will you accept my judgement, my son? Or would you rather appeal to a higher authority?

Palooka: I will accept judgement from you, Father. Bob Hamman may be busy.

Priest: Very well, my son. Your penance — and I apologise for its severity — is to play the Flannery two diamond convention for the next twelve months.

Palooka: Aaaaaahhhhhh!

DENNIS SPOONER

BATTLE OF THE SYSTEMS

THREE hands from a recent 24-board match illustrate the fight between two modern systems used by one team against the old-fashioned bidding of their opponents.

Tzu Hsi and Ku Jin play the Pekingese One Club. As will be appreciated, in view of ideological differences, this is a left-angled counterpart of the Precision Club.

Lilette and Zayat Tzung use the Bete system (not to be confused with the Beta system published by Pierre Collet). This is of considerable subtlety, being designed to withhold as much information as possible from the enemy. By using a system of relays, only one partner's hand is revealed. The other partner becomes declarer, and the opposition has no accurate idea of his cards.

On our first hand Lilette was South and dealt at love all. The bidding was:

South	West	North	East
<i>Lilette</i>		<i>Tzung</i>	
1♥ ¹	pass	1♠ ²	pass
1NT ³	pass	2NT ⁴	pass
3NT ⁵	all pass		

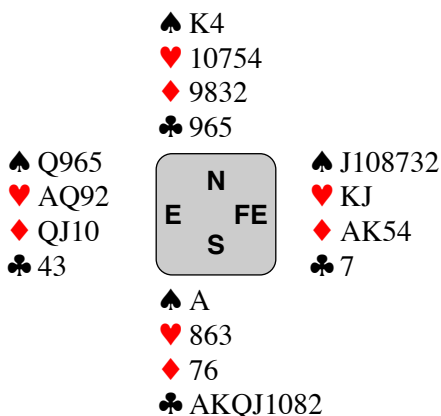
The meaning was explained to the opponents as:

- (1) I have 13 cards and feel like bidding.
- (2) I have 13 cards and don't feel like bidding.
- (3) I don't like spades.
- (4) Neither do I.
- (5) Partner, we agree.

West held:

♠Q965
♥AQ92
♦QJ10
♣43

On the bidding his lead seems obvious — a spade. However, Lilette quickly made her nine tricks, the full deal being:



In the other room the bidding was:

South	East*	North	Far East
	<i>Tzu Hsi</i>		<i>Ku Jin</i>
1♣	dbl ¹	pass	2♣ ²
3♣	pass	pass	4♠ ³
all pass			

- (1) I don't like being bourgeois, but...
- (2) Makes two of us.
- (3) I'll probably be shot as a counter-revolutionary.

After ruffing the second club Ku Jin led his jack of hearts to dummy's queen and played the queen of spades. However, North played his four and Ku Jin could only make ten tricks. The gain on this board was 13 IMPs.

**Tzu Hsi has lodged a formal complaint. She refuses to have anything to do with the effete West, yet she has been shown sitting in this deplorable position. Her partner, Ku Jin, also refuses to associate himself with the decadent hemisphere. In order to satisfy our friends we have been asked to erase the West position from all diagrams and bidding sequences concerning Tzu Hsi and Ku Jin and to substitute the words "East" for "West" and "Far East" for "East". This we have been happy to do.*

A few boards later Tzu Hsi and Ku Jin were vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents. For convenience we show them sitting North/South. The bidding went:

West	North	East	South
	<i>Tzu Hsi</i>		<i>Ku Jin</i>
	2♥ ¹	dbl	2NT ²
4♥	5♣ ³	5♥	5NT ⁴
6♣	6♦ ⁵	pass	7♠
all pass			

- (1) This is the revolutionary ultra-weak two bid showing a void in the suit bid.
- (2) Have you any other void?
- (3) Yes, clubs.
- (4) What is your shorter suit?
- (5) Diamonds.

As soon as East passed Ku Jin claimed his contract, even before Tzu Hsi tabled her hand. He stated, “I ruff dummy’s six diamonds and dummy ruffs my seven losing cards.” This accurate analysis impressed everyone with the delicate precision of the system.

The hands were:

	♠ AQJ9752	
	♥ —	
	♦ KQ10862	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ —
♥ QJ96543		♥ AK10
♦ 7		♦ AJ9543
♣ A10753		♣ KQ62
	♠ K108643	
	♥ 872	
	♦ —	
	♣ J984	

West's bid of six clubs was, of course, lead-directing. With their impeccable manners North/South refrained from mentioning the obvious save by East/West in seven no trump.

In the other room the auction was rather different:

West	North	East	South
<i>Tzung</i>		<i>Lilette</i>	
	2♠	3♥ ¹	4♠
5♦ ²	6♠	7♣ ³	pass ⁴
pass	pass ⁵		

- (1) This is my shortest suit, voids not counting.
- (2) This my shortest suit.
- (3) Let's compromise.
- (4) Sounds as if we have three losing hearts and I may make a club trick.
- (5) Vulnerable!

The slam could not be defeated and our team won 23 IMPs. In case there is any criticism of our pair for not bidding seven hearts, the extra 70 points are immaterial. Note also that their exquisite bidding results in East playing a cast iron contract. A diamond lead defeats seven hearts or seven clubs by West.

The only other really interesting board also showed the desirability of placing the declaration in the proper hand.

The deal:

	♠ 74	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ 108653	
	♣ K953	
♠ Q93		♠ J1086
♥ K10		♥ —
♦ AQ72		♦ KJ94
♣ Q1042		♣ AJ876
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ AK52	
	♥ A98765432	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
<i>Lilette</i>		<i>Tzung</i>	
4♦ ¹	pass	5♥ ²	pass
6♥ ³	all pass		

- (1) Please bid 4♥.
- (2) Why shouldn't I? I've got a high honour.
- (3) Wouldn't you, whether conservative, liberal or ?????

In the other room the bidding was less scientific at least as far as North/South were concerned:

South	East	North	Far East
	<i>Tzu Hsi</i>		<i>Ku Jin</i>
2♥	pass	2NT	pass
3♥	pass	4♥	pass
6♥	all pass		

Before leading Tzu Hsi reviewed the bidding, Ku Jin had not doubled the final contract, but then they weren't playing the despised, decadent system where a double would call for an unusual lead. Our enlightened Pekingese One Club couldn't accept that and our double was business. It was Far East's pass that called for an unusual lead. It took Tzu Hsi only a second to find the lead Ku Jin was demanding — the king of hearts!

Turnover: 17 IMPs.

ALEC TRAUB

W. D. & H. O. WILLS' BRITISH TEAM VS. THE REST OF THE WORLD

Back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, several staged bridge matches achieved huge media and public interest. This was one of them:

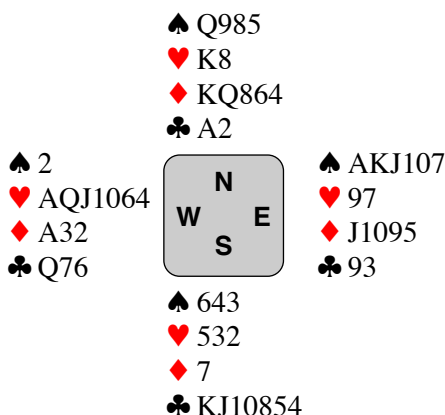
IT is difficult to recall a bridge match which created more public interest than the one played between a British team in the name of W. D. & H. O. Wills and a team representing the Rest of the World. The match was staged at the Mayfair Theatre in 1966, and for each of the three sessions every seat was applied for more than three times over. These were the teams:

W.D. & H.O. Wills: Terence Reese and Jeremy Flint,
Louis Tarlo and Claude Rodrigue,
Kenneth Konstam and Tony Priday.

Rest of the World: Cornelius Slavenburg and Hans Kreijns
(Netherlands)
Benito Garozzo (Italy) and
Claude Delmouly (France),
Leon Yallouze and Omar Sharif (Egypt).

The Rest took a small lead in the first half of the first session, due largely to a game contract which succeeded thanks to a fortunate disposition of the cards and a well imagined dummy play by Delmouly.

East/West Game. Dealer North.



North	East	South	West
1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♣	3 ♥
pass	4 ♥	all pass	

North led the king of diamonds and West had to find a play which would avoid the loss of a diamond ruff and two club losers and at the same time protect him against three club losers. This was the answer. He won the first diamond and immediately finessed the jack of spades, discarding two diamonds on high spades. Next he led a club and the defense had no answer. In practice South played the jack of clubs and declarer covered with the queen. North won and though he could put his partner in with the king of clubs he could not deny declarer a club ruff in dummy for his contract. South might have played the king of clubs on the first round of clubs, but against this West would counter by leading a low club from hand at a later stage.

An even more dramatic play was executed by Priday on the last hand of the match:

Love All. Dealer East.

	♠ J632	
	♥ 932	
	♦ 974	
	♣ AJ10	
♠ AQ987		♠ 10
♥ 6		♥ A754
♦ 10865		♦ AQJ32
♣ Q52		♣ K96
	♠ K54	
	♥ KQJ108	
	♦ K	
	♣ 8743	

In the Closed Room where South did no more than intervene with a bid of One Heart on the first round, Slavenburg and Kreyns reached a final contract of Five Diamonds, an excellent contract. Slavenburg won the opening heart lead and immediately finessed the queen of spades and took a club discard on the ace. Double dummy he can make twelve tricks. If he can rely on North for three hearts he does best to continue with a club to the king, a heart ruff, a spade ruff, a second heart ruff and then a diamond to the ace. After two spades Slavenburg not unreasonably preferred a diamond finesse, he could have still succeeded with the aid of a cross-ruff but lost his chance when he played a second round of trumps.

The final contract at the other table was the more unlikely one of Three No Trumps after this auction:

East	South	West	North
1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠	pass
2 ♦	2 ♥	3 ♥	dbl
3NT	all pass		

Priday won the third heart and, discounting the slender chance of finding West with king-jack of spades alone, he decided that the contract could not be made if South held the ace of clubs. The bidding had marked South with five hearts and North with one of the missing outside pictures. After winning the heart declarer led a club, dummy's queen losing to North's ace. North returned the ten of clubs, but Priday was now safely on the winning path. South had to hold the missing kings and so he won the second club and laid down the ace of diamonds. The spade finesse would give nine tricks and did in fact give ten since the diamond suit effected a double squeeze. On the last diamond South had to reduce to two spades in order to guard against declarer's fourth heart while North had to reduce to two spades in order to guard against declarer's nine of clubs. Dummy's three spades made the last three tricks, with the help of a finesse.

W. D. & H. O. Wills' British team won by 137 points to 103.



At a Nearby Table

HAVING gone down in a lay down slam and followed up by conceding an 800 penalty, for no reason, "Sorry partner — it takes me a little time to settle down."

Sardonic reply, "Not as long as it will take me to settle up."

WHERE DID IT GO WRONG?

IT is often difficult to decide on where an auction went off the rails. Here is your opportunity to be judge and jury. Assess whether East or West went wrong on the deals below and then compare your answers with those of Frank Stewart, the well-known bridge writer.

You are playing Acol with a 12-14 1NT opener, Stayman and Blackwood.

(1)

♠ AQ863	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K104
♥ 754		♥ KQ3
♦ J53		♦ 4
♣ 43		♣ AKQ1052

West	East
	1♣
1♠	3♣
pass	

4♠ would have made with an overtrick. Who was wrong?

[To Answer](#)

(2)

♠ Q10753	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK42
♥ 752		♥ 8
♦ K63		♦ AQ54
♣ K3		♣ AQ87

West	East
	1♣
1♠	4♠
pass	

An easy slam missed. Who was to blame? [To Answer](#)

(3)

♠ A5 ♥ K1064 ♦ 65 ♣ K10963	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ K8 ♥ 3 ♦ AKJ842 ♣ AQ52
-------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

West	East
	1♦
1♥	3♦
3NT	pass

3NT made, but so would have 6♣. Whose fault? [To Answer](#)

(4)

♠ Q3 ♥ Q542 ♦ 10832 ♣ K92	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK1064 ♥ AK ♦ Q9 ♣ QJ104
------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

West	East
	1♠
1NT	3♣
3♠	4♠
pass	

The ♠J did not fall, so 4♠ went down. 3NT was cold. Whose fault? [To Answer](#)

(5)

♠ A1054 ♥ 76 ♦ A7 ♣ AK1095	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div>	♠ Q3 ♥ AK432 ♦ K32 ♣ QJ3
-------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

West	East
	1♥
1♠	1NT
3♣	3NT
pass	

3NT made, but the excellent club slam was missed. Who was at fault? [To Answer](#)

(6)

♠ 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AKJ864
♥ K10532		♥ AQJ4
♦ J42		♦ AK
♣ Q732		♣ 4

West	East
—	2♣
2♦	2♠
2NT	3♥
4♥	pass

Another slam gone begging. Why? [To Answer](#)

(7)

♠ QJ75	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ AK6
♥ A85		♥ KQ42
♦ KJ52		♦ AQ63
♣ 86		♣ Q3

West	East
—	1♦
1♠	2NT
3♦	3♠
3NT	pass

Almost any other game is OK. Whose fault? [To Answer](#)

(8)

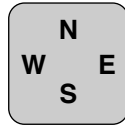
♠ K3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ QJ65
♥ AQ4		♥ K3
♦ AKJ32		♦ Q7
♣ 862		♣ AKJ43

West	East
—	1♣
1♦	1♠
3NT	pass

A very good slam for East/West. Someone erred. [To Answer](#)

(9)

♠ —
♥ Q9643
♦ AQJ62
♣ 863



♠ Q63
♥ AK852
♦ 103
♣ AQ4

West	East
	1♥
4♥	pass

Although the diamond finesse lost, twelve easy tricks were there. [To Answer](#)

(10)

♠ 1054
♥ AQ952
♦ A7
♣ Q65



♠ 76
♥ KJ3
♦ 8542
♣ AK43

West	East
	pass
1♥	2♣
pass	

4♥ would have been a good spot. Who was to blame? [To Answer](#)



“Young man, are you trying to finesse?”

ANSWERS

(1) East [To Question](#)

His hand was too promising for a 3♣ rebid. It's better to improvise a reverse to 2♥, forcing. Responder would rebid 2♠, and opener would raise spades. 2♥ is not dangerous — if responder raises hearts viciously, presumably with four-card support, he must have five or more spades so opener can convert. West should respond 1♥ with 4-4 in the majors.

(2) East [To Question](#)

His 4♠ rebid suggested a balanced hand, and responder had to sign off in game. Opener should instead bid diamonds, then jump in spades, or bid 4♥ over 1♠ as a splinter. This allows responder to judge that he has all working cards.

(3) East [To Question](#)

2♣ was a more flexible rebid than 3♦. The auction might have been:

West	East
	1♦
1♥	2♣
3♣	3♦
3♠	4♠
6♣	pass

(4) East [To Question](#)

Knowing responder probably has only a doubleton spade, opener should bid 3NT over 3♠, offering a choice of games and suggesting 5-2-2-4 distribution.

(5) West [To Question](#)

West misrepresented his suit lengths and crowded the auction. He should respond 2♣ to 1♥, planning to bid spades next. A possible sequence:

West	East
	1♥
2♣	2♥
2♠	3♣
3♦	3♥
3♠	4♦
6♣	pass

The actual bidding offered no hope of reaching a slam.

(6). West [To Question](#)

He failed to appreciate the power of his hand — he should bid at least 5♥ over 3♥. Since opener's 3♥ bid was forcing, responder could have had nothing for his raise to 4♥.

(7) East [To Question](#)

This is a famous American disaster from the 1958 Bermuda Bowl. No doubt opener, who jumped to 2NT without a club stopper and then heard partner show doubt about no trumps, should run from 3NT.

(8) West [To Question](#)

Another case where failure to jump shift was costly. West should bid 2♦ over 1♣, planning to bid no trumps next. Opener would then drive to slam.

(9) West [To Question](#)

With two side first-round controls and a source of tricks, his hand had far too much slam potential for the pre-emptive 4♥ bid. We'd rather jump to 3♦ than bid 4♥!

(10) East [To Question](#)

As a passed hand, he was wrong to temporise with 2♣, risking a pass from partner. A jump to 3♥ is better, but 3♣, suggesting a heart fit and club values, is best and might let responder bid game.

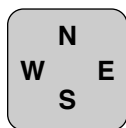
FRANK STEWART

THE MASTERS AT PLAY

TWO of the all-time greats, Giorgio Belladonna (Italy) and Howard Schenken (U. S. A.) were noted for their superb declarer play. See if you match their prowess on the hands below:

- (1) Giorgio Belladonna, an ever-present in the Italian Blue Team was a fanatically enthusiastic bridge player. A Civil Servant by profession, he was the architect-in-chief of the Roman Club System. A quick and brilliant card player, he could adapt his game to that of others more readily than his other distinguished colleagues. In Ostend in 1965, when he was the only member of the Blue Team on duty, he inspired a relatively inexperienced team to a Championship success. On this hand from a World Championship match against Thailand, Belladonna partnered Benito Garozzo.

♠ K		♠ A852
♥ AKQ862		♥ 954
♦ QJ1063		♦ 8
♣ 7		♣ AKJ94



West	East
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♥
4 ♠	6 ♥

In pursuance of the canapé principle, both players showed their longer suits on the second round. When East, Garozzo, jumped to 4♥ his partner read his distribution accurately and could safely venture his spade cue-bid, invitation enough for East. Two diamond ruffs would give declarer a near certain twelve tricks, but North found the damaging lead of the jack of hearts.

See how you assess your chances before reading how Belladonna played the hand.

- (2) Howard Schenken was at the forefront of American players. Like Belladonna, Schenken was a quick dummy player and a master in the arts of deceptive play. See if you can spot his line of play:

♠ KQ97			♠ J10864
♥ A83			♥ 65
♦ AQ5			♦ 964
♣ A93			♣ 1082

South	West	North	East
1♠	1NT	2♦	pass
pass	2NT	all pass	

North led the seven of diamonds and South played the jack. How did Schenken plan to make eight tricks?

- (1) Belladonna's 6♥

			♠ 107643
			♥ J102
			♦ K94
			♣ 82

♠ K			♠ A852
♥ AKQ863			♥ 954
♦ QJ1063			♦ 8
♣ 7			♣ AKJ94

			♠ QJ95
			♥ 7
			♦ A752
			♣ Q10653

Belladonna won the first heart lead and led the ♦10. North won with the King and continued with the ♥10. Declarer cashed ♠K, ruffed a diamond and played the ♠A and ruffed a third spade. He led out his trumps, discarding dummy's spade on the last heart: when South parted with a club he played the ace and king, dropping the queen.

(2) Schenken's 2NT

	♠ —	
	♥ J742	
	♦ K10872	
	♣ KJ65	
♠ KQ97		♠ J10864
♥ A83		♥ 65
♦ AQ5		♦ 964
♣ A93		♣ 1082
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ A532	
	♥ KQ109	
	♦ J3	
	♣ Q74	

If the ♠A is held up to the fourth round there is no hope for the eighth trick. Schenken won the first trick with the ♦Q and immediately returned a low diamond. North won with the ten and played a third diamond to clear the suit — and South discarded the ♠2. Of course South made a mistake, but would you have provided him with the opportunity to make that mistake?



KAMIKAZE BRIDGE

WHEN some debacle befalls the better class of player, should it be exposed to the public gaze? How cruel, how unfair...how delicious?

The redouble is a prolific source of problems and the following trilogy of hands all involved redoubles or the opportunity to redouble. The players involved (who should have known better) are all top class players (but you may have your doubts after seeing what they are able to perpetrate). Let him who is without debacle cast the first stone...

Game All. Dealer North.

	♠ Q10	
	♥ 10864	
	♦ AJ1062	
	♣ A6	
♠ AKJ53		♠ —
♥ K		♥ AJ9753
♦ K53		♦ Q874
♣ K1042		♣ Q85
	♠ 987642	
	♥ Q2	
	♦ 9	
	♣ J973	

West	North	East	South
	pass	pass	pass
1 ♠	dbl ¹	rdbl ²	pass
pass	2 ♦ ³	dbl ⁴	3 ♣ ⁵
dbl	all pass		

- (1) Would you?
- (2) East/West were using the redouble for hands in the 8-12 point range.
- (3) 1 ♠ redoubled can make two.

- (4) With the scent of blood in the nostrils...
- (5) Why didn't I bid 2♣ last time?

A common upshot from an auction like the above, culminating in an unsightly contract is that declarer does not produce his best, still shattered by the sight of dummy. The sins of the auction are visited upon the play...

West led the ♣2, ducked to East's queen. East cashed the ♥A and gave West a heart ruff. West tried the effect of the ♠K. When East showed out, West had an excellent count on the hand and shifted to a low diamond.

Declarer did not produce his best effort when he ducked in dummy, for East won the queen and continued with the ♥J ruffed with the ♣7 and over-ruffed with ten. West now cashed the ♠A and followed this with the ♠J. Declarer declined to ruff this, as the ♣K would promote, so West continued with another spade. Again declarer did not ruff, but threw the ♥10 from dummy.

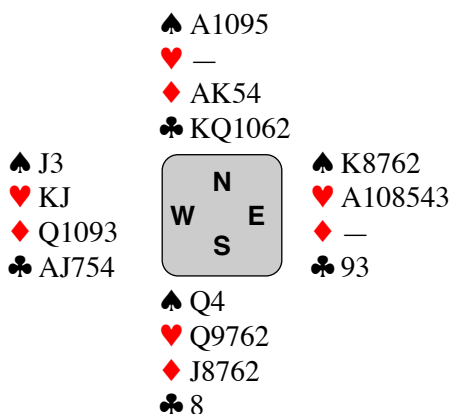
That was the first nine tricks to the defense and East now led another heart, ruffed by South, over-ruffed with ♣K and taken by the ace. Declarer played the ♦A and ruffed a diamond with his last trump, conceding the last trick to East's trump. Down six, -1700.



"You wouldn't say that if I was twenty years younger!"

On the previous hand, once North had doubled, East/West were booked for a good score. On the next hand an injudicious double and subsequent bidding led to disaster:

Love All. Dealer West.



West	North	East	South
1♦ ¹	dbl ²	rdbl ³	2♥ ⁴
pass	2NT ⁵	dbl ⁶	3♥ ⁷
pass	pass	dbl ⁸	all pass

- (1) East/West's system did not allow 1♣
- (2) With a view to self-immolation. North's next move over a possible 4♥ from South would prove instructive.
- (3) East/West were using redouble as 8-12 points, but East was not a stickler for point count when a penalty was in the air.
- (4) Impressed by the good heart fit.
- (5) Unfortunate in suggesting a strong balanced hand. 3♣ might have been more prudent to warn partner of the absence of heart tolerance.
- (6) A nice move to dislodge the opposition from their probable best spot.

- (7) It works. South runs to the 'haven' of the trump suit, expecting at least a doubleton in North's hand.
- (8) Checking the back of the cards before doubling.

With no obvious lead, West chose the ♠J, won by the ace. With no obvious good play, South led the ♣K, won by the ace and the ♠3 went to the king. East continued with the ♠8, trumped by West as South discarded a diamond. West dutifully returned a diamond ruffed by East, followed by a spade ruffed by West's king and a diamond ruffed by East.

East led another spade, trumped by South who exited with the ♥6, won by East. That was seven tricks to the defense and East managed two more: he led a club won by dummy, ruffed the next lead from dummy, allowing South to overruff but South had to lead into East's ♥A10 for the last two tricks.

Down five was -1100 on a hand where East/West have no obvious good contract.

The redouble showing 8-12 points is enjoying considerable vogue in Australia. What action do you then take over an opposition take-out double with 13 or more points? The next hand gives the answer:

Game All. Dealer West.

	♠ —	
	♥ Q862	
	♦ Q974	
	♣ AQJ62	
♠ A10642		♠ KQ87
♥ A1075		♥ KJ
♦ 5		♦ AK83
♣ K105		♣ 843
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> N </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> W E </div> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> S </div> </div> </div>	
	♠ J953	
	♥ 943	
	♦ J1062	
	♣ 97	

West	North	East	South
1♠	dbl	pass ¹	2♦
pass	pass	3♠ ²	pass
4♠	5♦ ³	dbl ⁴	all pass

- (1) Since redouble shows 8-12, the pass is consistent with 0-7 or 13+.
- (2) Not 0-7, ergo...
- (3) Not his finest hour.
- (4) Even if we can make 5♠, why look a gift horse in the mouth?

West led a trump to East's king and the ♠K came back, ruffed in dummy. The ♥2 was led from dummy (it might have been more prudent to broach clubs), taken by East's jack and East returned the ♦3. Still shell-shocked from being lumbered with this sacrificial offering, South failed to put up his jack, which would have given him an entry to finesse in clubs. Instead he played low, winning with dummy's ♦9 while West discarded a club.

Belatedly, the ♣Q was led from dummy, won by the king and a low heart put East in. East cashed the ♦A, drawing dummy's last trump and at trick eight, followed with a low spade won by West's ten. West cashed the ♠A, East dropping the queen, and the ♥A, East discarding his last spade. At trick eleven, West led a low spade, trumped by East...

Down seven was -2000, not unreasonable compensation for a vulnerable game.

"Sorry, partner," said East (North/South were saying nothing), "If I had played the queen of spades at trick eight, we could have got it for 2300."

With North and South at least two stone...sorry, twenty-eight pounds heavier than West, West felt it would be imprudent to pursue the conversation.

RON KLINGER

OPENING LEADS QUIZ

IT is very hard to find consistently accurate opening leads. So many defenses are stillborn because of their first move. Frustrating of course, but after you have answered this quiz, and checked your reasoning with the experts, you will emerge as a fearsome opponent and longed-for partner.

What should West lead with the following hands:

(1) *East/West Game. Dealer East.* [To Answer](#)

♠ J752
♥ Q3
♦ K109
♣ A975

West	North	East	South
		pass	4♥
all pass			

(2) *Game All. Dealer North.* [To Answer](#)

♠ AQJ652
♥ 9853
♦ 9
♣ J2

West	North	East	South
	1♥	pass	2♦
2♠	3♦	pass	3NT

(3) *East/West Game. Dealer East.* [To Answer](#)

♠ K984
♥ AK854
♦ J
♣ 1093

West	North	East	South
		pass	1♦
dbl	rdbl	pass	2♦
pass	2♠	pass	3♣
pass	3♥	pass	3NT
all pass			

(4) Dealer North. North/South Game. IMPs. [To Answer](#)

♠ QJ965
♥ J109
♦ 3
♣ Q832

West	North	East	South
	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	3♣	pass	3NT
all pass			

(5) Dealer South. Love All. IMPs. [To Answer](#)

♠ AQ10863
♥ K7
♦ 1092
♣ A5

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2♥	pass	pass
2♠	3♥	all pass	

You can score 100 points on each question for the ‘correct’ answer. To see how you did...

ANSWERS

(1) Michel Lebel (France) [To Question](#)

When there has been a pre-emptive opening that becomes the final contract, with therefore no indication of dummy's holding, it is usually best to lead an ace. This 'look through the periscope' avoids blind leads and enables the defenders to eventually find the right switch.

This lead of an ace has nowadays become quite automatic against a 3NT opening (based on a long solid minor) but the reasoning behind it is equally valid against an opening bid of four of a major.

Scoring: ♣A: 100
♦10: 60
♠2: 50
♥3: 20

In the final of the European Pairs Championship Michel Lebel led ♣A and was very pleased with his choice when he saw the three top spades in dummy:

	♠ AKQ64
	♥ 6
	♦ J863
	♣ 1032
♠ J752	
♥ Q3	
♦ K109	
♣ A975	

N

W

S

E

Contract: 4♥. On the lead of the ♣A East (Chemla) played the six and South the eight. What was the best continuation?

As West has the ♥Q it is very likely that South has the ♥A and that holding two aces he would not have opened the bidding with 4♥. East is therefore marked with the ♦A and so Lebel switched to the ♦9 to his partner's ace who then cashed

the ♣K and returned a diamond, his hand being:

♠ 1083
 ♥ J2
 ♦ A742
 ♣ KJ64

Result: One down.

(2) Edgar Kaplan (U. S. A.) [To Question](#)

It is obvious that South has ♠K and that he hopes to make nine tricks by way of five or six diamonds, two or three hearts, ♠K and perhaps some clubs.

If West leads a spade this might well give declarer his ninth trick, while if he decides to lead a club (the suit in which partner is most likely to have a trick) he may well be wasting a precious tempo should South's spade holding be K10x, as even if East gets in to play a spade through the defense is helpless.

Edgar Kaplan explains his choice thus:

♣J. If partner has a heart or diamond entry the contract will always be beaten as declarer will have to establish these suits, but if partner's entry is in clubs, it is imperative to get him in early to play a spade through.

Scoring: ♣J: 100
 ♣2: 80
 ♠Q: 60
 ♥9 or 3: 30

(3) Roger Bates (U. S. A.) [To Question](#)

The bidding revealed that South had a weak opening with in principle six diamonds and four clubs. On the other hand, North who redoubled and bid strongly thereafter, has a spade suit and at least 12 points. There isn't therefore any question of a diamond or club lead, nor really a spade lead and the *heart lead is the only logical one*. But which heart to choose?

Normally when one hasn't an assured entry it is best to lead the fourth highest, i.e. the ♥5, but look out, the problem here is a lit-

tle different because North may well not have a genuine suit. Hearts were bid only as a 'fourth suit' and not a very solid one as North failed to bid 3NT himself. In short, it is more prudent to lead the ace of hearts, if only to have a look at the hearts in dummy.

Scoring: ♥ A or K: 100

♥ 5: 80

♠ 4: 20

♣ 10: 10

(4) Alain Lévy (France) [To Question](#)

Should you automatically lead the unbid suit? Perhaps, but first you have to try to imagine what South's hand looks like. He is prepared to play in 3NT opposite a minimum opening with 6♣. He has values in spades and diamonds, but he is also prepared for the heart lead. With values in hearts and diamonds, it is quite possible that South's spades do not contain both the ace and king. Even if South has both the top honors, there is still a chance that East has the ten of spades for the lead to give nothing away. Which spade should you lead then? Well, given that you have decided to play partner for a spade honour, then the ♠5 or ♠6 is surely the right choice.

	♠ 2	
	♥ 843	
	♦ A106	
	♣ AKJ754	
♠ QJ965		♠ K8
♥ J109		♥ AQ52
♦ 3		♦ J8754
♣ Q832		♣ 109
	<div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W</div> <div>S</div> <div>E</div> </div> </div>	
	♠ A10743	
	♥ K76	
	♦ KQ92	
	♣ 6	

Alain Lévy led the ♠6 from the West hand, and declarer took East's king with the ♠A, as who would not? Then South took the club finesse and continued with three more rounds of the suit. West won the fourth round of clubs with the queen and counter-attacked with the ♥J to his partner's ace. A spade was returned and Lévy was thus able to take three spade tricks, defeating the contract.

Scoring: A small spade: 100

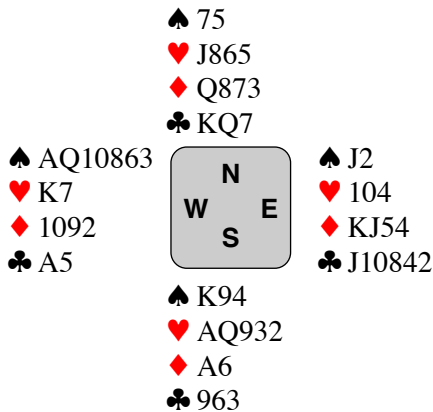
♥J: 70

♠Q: 60

(5) Jill Blanchard (U. S. A.) [To Question](#)

None of your choices seem clear-cut, so you have to choose the 'least bad'. By a process of elimination, trumps are out, the ♠A gives South a trick whenever she has the king, the ♣A would be a reasonable lead if you wanted a ruff, but with a natural trump trick this is not so. The ♦10 is the most neutral start. It does not permit you to look at dummy and switch at trick two, but you may have another opportunity to do so on winning the king of trumps.

The opening lead chosen by Jillian Blanchard was the ♣A, and declarer went one off in her contract.



Sometimes you *can* beat the experts!

Scoring: ♦ 10: 100

♣A: 80

♠A: 50

Your 'rating' as an opening leader is as follows:

500	When do you fancy a game?
400—499	Excellent; clearly you think before you lead.
300—399	Good, but you'll benefit from a little more care.
200—299	Fair, but improvement to be made.
Less than 200	An area of the game to work on. Remember the opening salvo is the most critical card the defense plays.

A Good Lead

THE opponents bid rapidly to 3NT, and you survey this rather unimpressive collection:

♠ 8765
♥ 98432
♦ Q2
♣ 102

After due consideration, you lead ♣10, dummy producing ♣Q93. Declarer studies your card for the leading method, and then asks your partner, "What kind of lead is that?"

The reply, quick as a flash, "A bloody good one."

Partner held ♣AKJ876.

THE SALVATION OF PETER DODDS

PETER Dodds was a decidedly unhappy man when he first visited our club. As my partner was in the process of mangling a perfectly good three no trump that, due to an unfortunate line of bidding, I had not been able to arrange to play myself, I was not too distressed to leave the table to welcome him. "He looks very ill, sir," said Mrs. Appleyard when she led me towards the hall. Mrs.

Appleyard is our general factotum. The man to whom I was introduced had once been a fine physical specimen but some terrible event had obviously taken its toll. His broad shoulders were hunched; his eyes, set deep in their sockets, had a glazed faraway look in them. I noticed that there was a nervous tic in his cheek. He seemed like a man who had been consigned to a hell of continually failing to make laydown doubled slam contracts. In a disinterested voice he introduced himself and asked if he could become a member of the club.

I wondered at the time the reasons for his evident disrepair, and his motives for applying for membership when his heart evidently was not in it. It was some time before I found out but when I did the scales fell from my eyes. Peter Dodds was a golf addict!

He had been a golf addict for most of his life. I say most of his life because apparently there had been a time when, in his pram and not yet at his first birthday, he had been unable to hold a club. Dodds was properly ashamed of such frailty and never spoke of that unhappy period. Nevertheless, as soon as he was strong enough he had started playing and, as far as I could ascertain, he had subsequently never stopped. His day was made up of walking round the course and his evening of reading golf books. His only excursions into fiction were to skim some of Wodehouse's golfing stories which, in his heart of hearts, he regarded as dangerously flippant. As a talented man he had between rounds built up a thriving business, which he

had sold at a vast profit to enable him to spend almost the whole of his time on the course. Personally, I have never been able to understand such addictions. I have found that several rubbers of bridge a day, together with catching up on some of the latest bridge literature, leaves little time to develop obsessions.

All might have continued along these lines until Dodds was called to the great 19th hole in the sky had he not one day missed a short putt at the 17th. Later, playing the shot over and over in his mind, he had driven his car straight into the back of a parked lorry. I have a great deal of sympathy with such a slip of concentration. I myself once hit a stationary car while mentally replaying a difficult five diamond contract where I had failed to spot a squeeze and throw in. I had naturally defended myself against the subsequent charge of negligence on the grounds that it would have been negligent of me not to have mentally dissected the hand in order to avoid similar mistakes in the future. The judge, who had long since abandoned the unequal struggle to become a club master, had been unimpressed. I had been forced to pay a ridiculously large fine. Peter Dodds had been less bothered by the court case than by the fact that the accident seemed to have affected his physical equilibrium. He found that he could not stand for any period without feeling giddy and that he felt decidedly dizzy after eight or nine holes.

Eventually, after about a week of scores that would have disgraced a non-handicap player, Dodds visited his GP. The doctor, who had received his medical training some forty years before and only kept it up to date by devotedly watching *E. R.*, had no idea of what was wrong. As it is not medical etiquette to admit ignorance, he referred him to a specialist. After being forwarded from one specialist to another, which is the medical way of ensuring the proper distribution of wealth, Dodds at last ended up with one who seemed to have some knowledge of his ailment. That worthy prodded and punched him, and asked a number of extremely personal questions about his habits and antecedents. He then sat down heavily, put the tips of his fin-

gers together and looked soberly at Dodds over the top of his spectacles. "I'm afraid the accident has damaged your...", he said, using one of those long Latin names, the extensive knowledge of which specialists feel entitles them to their exorbitant charges.

Dodds sat numbly. He waited to be told in funereal terms that he only had six more rounds to play. But the specialist continued, "Your sense of balance has been permanently upset. There is nothing seriously wrong and no deterioration is likely but you'll have to give up driving." Dodds sat back relieved. That wasn't too bad and he'd never liked driving anyway. In fact, he'd moved close to the course expressly to avoid it.

"I'm also afraid you'll never be able to play golf properly again."

Dodds was thunderstruck. He told me later that at that moment his whole life flashed before him.

"You see, your lack of stability will prevent your maintaining a consistent swing." "But I tend to hook anyway," said Dodds feverishly, "won't this just compensate?" "Clutching at straws I'm afraid," answered the specialist. "But," he continued, for he was a kindly man at heart, "you'll be able to potter round the odd hole, but don't expect to be able to hit the ball straight."

Had the specialist told Dodds that he was going to lose his life savings, that his house had burned down and that his two sisters had been raped by drunken marines, he could not have been more wounding. What use was a couple of holes to a man who had thought nothing of a quick eighteen before breakfast; and why hit the ball if you couldn't hit it straight? That, after all, as Dodds reasonably pointed out, was the whole object of the exercise.

Over the next few weeks Dodds went through all the stages of misery known to man. At first he went out on the course as before but he rapidly discovered that the specialist's prognostication had been correct. He found even five holes testing and when he hit the ball it seemed to develop the aerodynamic characteristics of a boomerang. Gradually he went less to the club. His friends, not realizing his affliction, still tried to arrange

games with him but his pride wouldn't allow him to accept. Increasingly he spent more time alone in his house brooding. He couldn't bear to glance out of his window which overlooked the thirteenth green and he started to drink more than a dedicated two handicap player could normally allow himself. In short, he was slowly going to pieces.

The turning point came, he told me, one late September evening. The green was that delightful glowing color that comes with the late summer growth. A faint breeze stirred the flag and a mellow sun polished the russet leaves of the beech trees close to the bunkers. Dodds found the atmosphere almost unbearable. His left arm twitched nervously as he pictured himself driving off at the par 3 fifth; his head jerked involuntarily as he heard the crack of a sweetly played wood from the fourteenth tee. Finally he found himself watching *The Jerry Springer Show* and he knew his sanity must be going. He had to pull himself together! If he couldn't play golf, then he would have to find some other game. It obviously had to be sedentary and equally obviously it had to be engrossing. Dodds remembered he had occasionally played some bridge socially on the long winter evenings when he'd run out of golf books. Perhaps that would prove satisfactory.

The day that Dodds came to the club was the one on which we hold the weekly duplicate. Our club has an arrangement whereby one committee member is available each week to play with any newcomer who might wish for a game. As it was my turn, Dodds was fortunate enough to have me for a partner.

When play began that evening the omens were not auspicious. Dodds seemed to be doing little more than going through the motions. His eyes appeared fixed on some indefinable point in the middle distance, and I noticed that he kept on rolling up his scorecard and holding it in the inter-locking grip. I am not an insensitive man so I said nothing and concentrated on ensuring that I played as many of the hands as possible. As a result of this, and also because Dodds' defensive play, while not up to my own standard, showed a certain natural talent, we performed quite creditably. We were helped by Johnson and

Forsythe, two adolescents who believed that the essence of good bridge was to take up as many conventions as the mind could absorb and a good few more besides. These two got into some difficulty when they misapplied one of their more obscure systems to bid six no trumps to ask for kings and found themselves at the seven level with two missing. This and the odd near top kept us well away from the bottom of the field but I could see that Dodd's heart still wasn't in it.

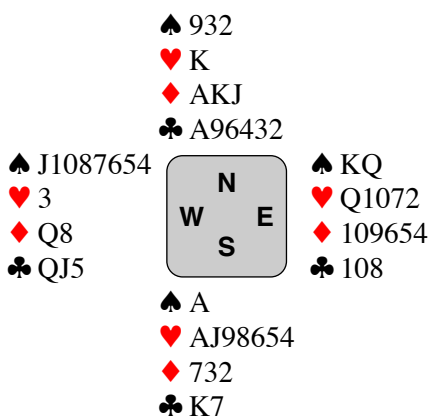
It was the last round of the evening. Dodds slumped down in his chair, and gazed disinterestedly at his cards. The first hand was flat. On the second hand he opened one heart. I held:

♠932
♥K
♦AKJ
♣A96432

For a moment I toyed with an immediate bid of three no trumps. It was evident we had game and I suspected the best spot was likely to be no trumps. I also suspected that Dodd's next bid would be two no trumps. As this would mean that he would play the contract it was a course not to be embarked upon with any enthusiasm. However, my natural discipline reasserted itself and I confined myself to a modest two clubs. East bid two spades and Dodds then upset my preconceived ideas by bidding three hearts. This presented me with something of a problem. Although Dodds had shown himself an able, if disinterested, player he was still something of a beginner. Any decidedly clever bid on my part would undoubtedly be awarded ten points on any bidding challenge in the various bridge magazines that would be of little help to Dodds. A ten-point score usually signified, to my mind, that the bid is so outrageous that the editor isn't sure whether it is the work of a genius or a fool. As he doesn't understand it himself, and is loath to call one of our international players a fool, he naturally opts for former explanation in the confident assumption that ninety per cent of his readers won't comprehend the bid either.

The only assumption I could make was that Dodds had at least thirteen points and a minimum of a five-card heart suit. I decided that now was the time to take the initiative and bid three no trumps. I was somewhat taken aback when Dodds, without even bothering to investigate further, laconically took me out to six hearts. I do not approve of such undisciplined bidding but I had a suspicion that Dodds was testing my reactions. The defense led the spade jack and I studiously refrained from any comment or change of expression as I tabled my hand.

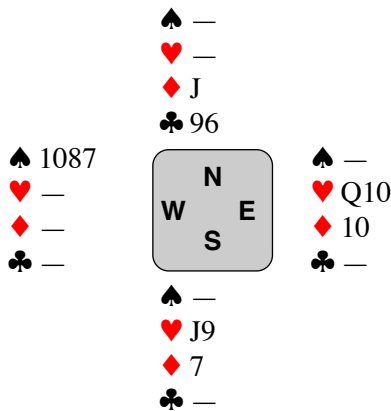
I was not at all averse to sacrificing dummy's rights and this is what I saw:



Dodds carried out a peremptory count of his winners. He rapidly decided that, provided trumps and clubs didn't break too unkindly, the slam was a laydown and languidly played the ace. A small heart to the king, a spade ruff in hand and the heart ace revealed the bad trump break. There seemed no way to avoid two trump losers.

At this point, for the first time in the evening, Dodds sat forward in his seat and paused deep in thought. Then he looked up abruptly. I noticed the faraway look in his eyes had been replaced by an intense glitter. His voice was a trifle abrupt when he summoned a card from dummy and his fingers restless as he snatched a card from his hand. He followed each of his

opponents' cards avidly, like a miser counting change. A stranger, unversed in the noble game, might have thought he was at an early stage of intoxication. I, who had seen the signs so often before, knew better. He was merely another declarer who had seen the chance of bringing home a difficult contract. The king of clubs was followed by a small club to the ace and another club returned. At this point East was in an impossible position. If he ruffs, declarer's two losing hearts are reduced to one. In fact after some thought East discarded a diamond, Dodds ruffed and led a low diamond to the king. A fourth club was led. Again East discarded a diamond. Dodds ruffed again and led a low diamond towards dummy, going up with the ace when the queen fell from West. He had now reduced his trump length to two, the same as East, and the end position was:



Dodds led the nine of clubs and the defense was helpless. Dodds sat back in his chair. He had reason to be pleased with himself. Many beginners seem to think it beyond their capabilities to count up to thirteen. To find a player who, even though not a complete beginner, was able to bring off a trump coup augured well for the future. However, I do not like new partners to get too high an opinion of their prowess in case they wrongly feel sufficiently able to criticise my own bidding or play. I merely nodded at Peter: "Well played! A clear top."

I need not have been unduly worried that the contract would make Peter complacent. He leaned forward in his seat with a feverish look in his eyes. "Never mind that — let's go and play the next hand."

I explained to him, as gently as I could, that that hand had been the last. The evening was over.

"Over? Over!" repeated Dodds. "Good God it's only quarter to twelve." Absentmindedly, he had picked up a pack of cards and was shuffling them incessantly.

"There's a cut-in rubber tomorrow afternoon if you're interested," I said.

"What's wrong with the morning?" asked Dodds, leaping from his seat and striding round the room, picking up used travellers and studying them intensely. "An enjoyable evening," he continued without waiting for an answer. "I must read up on it tomorrow. What books do you recommend?"

I relaxed back in my seat. Already his face had lost its pallor; the haunted look had left his eyes. His fingers had stopped entwining themselves round an imagined shaft and were now busy shuffling cards. Peter Dodds was a healthy man again!

MICHAEL GAHAGAN



USEFUL HINTS FOR USELESS PLAYERS

I am often asked how it is, with my mediocre talent for the game, that I have reached such dizzy heights. (It is a little known fact that I have achieved *Club Master* in just over seven years, despite the fact that during this time I suffered from a bout of influenza and did not play for a *whole* week!)

The psychological aspect of the game is often under-estimated, and I have decided to impart the brain-washing technique that has stood me in such good stead over the years.

The idea of this advice is based upon the fact that many of us will *never* get any better. It is obviously a complete waste of time to actually try and improve our Bridge standards, so I offer a practical alternative.

Please read, memorise, and then *eat* the following:

1. *Never* smile during the play, *always* frown. This gives your opponents (and your partners, come to that) the impression that you are thinking.
2. When defending, suddenly relax, and look relieved, at around trick four. This should be timed to coincide with declarer playing an insignificant card from his hand that has *absolutely nothing* to do with *anything*. It is *very* disconcerting for you to be seen, at the sight of, say, the six of diamonds, smiling and nodding, knowingly. An audible aside to a startled kibitzer on the lines of, “I thought so — he *did* have it!” is an optional extra. The point is that the thought, planted in the declarer’s mind, that you are a player who *worries* about sixes, absolutely *guarantees* panic.
3. Never *ask* what an opponent’s bid means. Inform *them*. First of all think up a lot of odd names (stick to television as a source — it is safer as dedicated players never watch

it anyway) then invent, and pair them into conventions. If you are stuck, and need to know what is going on, remember that a *suggestion* works as well as a question.

For example:

West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	2♠	?

At this point, as South, you should pick up West's convention card, peruse it, and casually query, as follows:

"Are you playing Seinfeld raises?"

The effect can be devastating. Your opponents will probably just say:

"No, it just means..."

And you get your answer. But think of what your simple question has implied. You are obviously a student of the game with a knowledge of the most obscure bidding systems at your fingertips.

'Modified Frasier'

'Mulder over Two No Trumps'

'Simpson Cue Bids' and 'Kramer Leads'

All have the same effect. You need have no worries. They will *never* ask *you* about the convention as this will only show *their* ignorance.

4. In the second half of any pairs competition you should say to your partner as you join new opponents:

"We only need averages now."

This also guarantees success. *Nothing* infuriates a bridge player *more* than to be labelled as an 'Average Board'. He or she will be so determined to give you a Bottom you will, invariably, end up with a Top.

5. When you are declarer remember to say, with a smile, and a nod, at the first sight of a dummy:

"That's what I thought you had."

This implies that you are in the right contract. If, how-

ever, partner's shape is 10-1-1-1 and he has bid no trumps several times, it is *essential* to deliver the line *without* swearing.

6. Depending on the time of year, it can be very rewarding when meeting new opponents to look at their convention card. If they have given their names, read them out — aloud and thoughtfully — as though to yourself, and then ask:

“Didn’t we just play you recently in the Round of 16 in the Spingold?”

This works two-fold.

- (a) You are revealing that you got that far in the competition — so you must be good and,
- (b) In an effort to confirm *your* estimation of *their* abilities, they will play very badly trying to prove it.

7. Never fail to drop at least one thoroughly demoralizing remark during any lull in the play. I have found particularly useful:

“Did Zia tell you about that hand he played last week?”

This is positively *packed* with innuendo. Apart from the fact that it reveals you hob-nob with the likes of Zia Mahmood, it also points out that *he* thinks *you* will appreciate what he is talking about.

“I always play better when there’s a lot of people watching me.”

Powerful stuff. Now *they* know that you are used to having temporary grandstands erected behind your chair.

“Bob Hamman’s asked me to play with him, again.”

The “again” is essential, and best delivered after a pause, and a sigh that suggests you will really be glad when he stops bothering you.

DENNIS SPOONER



Tony Forrester says

"It was time to put together a bridge book which is fun to read. Over the years, so few publications could be described as that. I searched high and low to find those articles which had appealed to me when I read them. The outstanding were memorable, because well-written and amusing bridge anecdotes are rare.

Using my wife, Diana, as a guinea-pig — she plays very little bridge as such but does know a good story when she sees one — I sifted through thirty years of highly variable material.

The result? In my view the best collection of entertaining and informative one-off pieces ever written. Not just fictional, but also many of the key hands and decisions that have shaped bridge history. Plus, for your own game, many tips and quizzes that will sharpen your edge.

In short, a jolly good read!
Have fun..."

Tony

"If you can't decide what to get your bridge-playing friends for Christmas, you need look no further."

BRIDGE magazine



MASTER POINT PRESS

