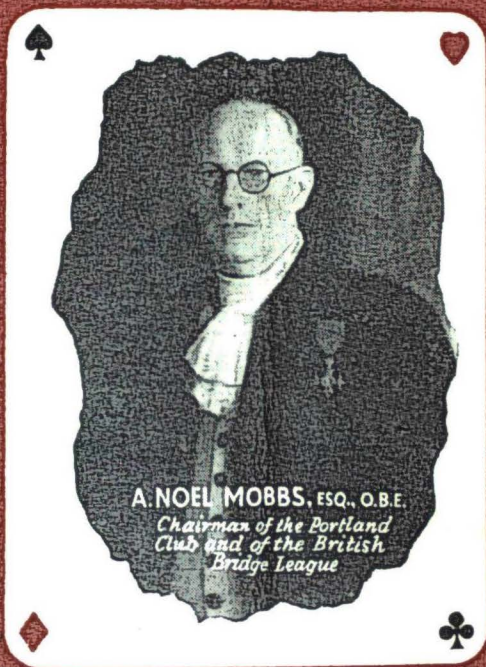


# CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION



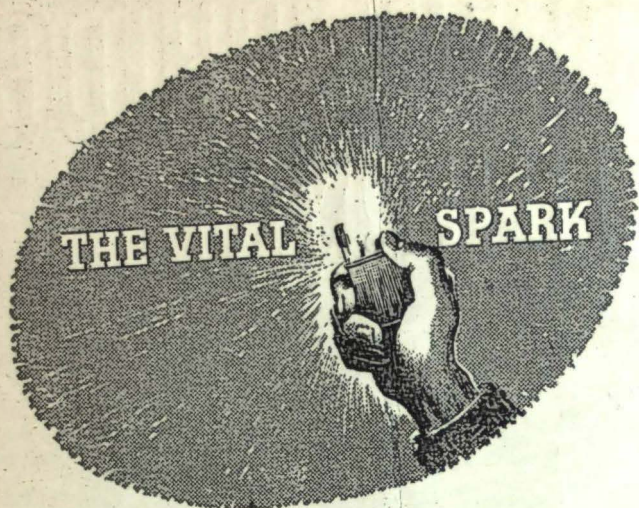
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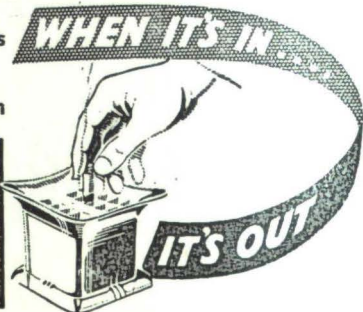
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# THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

Edited by  
M. HARRISON-GRAY

VOLUME I

NUMBER 2

OCTOBER, 1946

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## Editorial

IT is a matter for regret that Issue No. 1 was late ; but it is *not* a matter for apology. The delay was due to circumstances too well-known to every newspaper reader to bear repetition, (circumstances entirely outside our control). But the delay was only for that single issue, and the publishers intend to catch up with our subsequent numbers.

The delay in sending out Issue No. 1 was inconvenient, but what matters most is that the JOURNAL met with an immediate reception that exceeded even the Editor's optimistic expectations. Will those readers who wrote so generously please (since we are still saving paper) accept this acknowledgment and expression of gratitude, rather than a series of individual, and inevitably stereotyped, notes of appreciation ?

Is it our imagination or is the general atmosphere at the bridge table more cordial than of yore ? Post-mortems there will always be, and who knows whether the game is any the worse for them ?—but at least they seem to be conducted these days more, in a spirit of friendly enquiry and elucidation. The familiar interchange of barbed shafts of sarcasm and fatuous excuses is becoming a thing of the past. Not altogether, for the other day we saw, with our own eyes, a player pick up the following :  
♠ None ♥ A K Q ♦ A K J 10 9 7 6 4 ♣ A Q. Playing the Two-Clubs, she opened with *Two Diamonds* ! Her partner scraped

up a raise to Three Diamonds on  
♠ 7 5 ♥ J 10 7 4 2 ♦ 8 5 3 2  
♣ 9 6, and the lady now found the courage to bid Six. Her partner, who, all things considered, was not dissatisfied with the result, ventured to enquire why she had not opened with Two Clubs. The following excuses were produced in rapid succession : (a) Didn't think I was strong enough (b) How was I to know that you held those Hearts ? (c) Wanted to shut out Spades (d) Anyhow, like playing my own game. How simple it would have been to admit that she had lost her head, perhaps understandably, on picking up such an incredible hand ? Any good player will tell you that there is nothing more disarming or conducive to good relations than a candid admission of error. Next time you commit an atrocity, don't search for a far-fetched alibi that will make your case (and your ability) appear worse. Just say "Sorry, I was crazy"—and nine times out of ten your mollified partner will protest that your opponents would probably have made their contract in any event.

Nowhere has the theory of how to handle a weak partner been better expressed than in the works of our most popular bridge writer, S. J. Simon.

The countless thousands of enthusiasts who have bought, begged, borrowed or stolen Simon's classic "Why You Lose at Bridge" will be delighted at the surprise reappearance in these pages of his



immortal characters, Mrs. Guggenheim, Mr. Smug, Futile Willie, and the Unlucky Expert. Each month Simon will disseminate wit and wisdom in his inimitable style in "Another Rubber at the Club." So popular are his characters that their appearance in yet another medium may be anticipated.

Many readers have commented on the wealth of talent contributing to our first number. In case this appeared to be a special effort to produce a bumper first issue, let us assure them that the standard will become higher, not lower, and that our main concern is to add to the quantity as well as the quality of our pages.

Heading the list of October contributors is Godfrey Winn, and it is a considerable tribute to his love of the game (and perhaps a smaller tribute to the pertinacity of the Editor!) that one of the great journalists of our time should write for a new, and not yet wealthy, magazine. For Winn finds in bridge his greatest and—save for his garden and his friends—his only relaxation. He is very nearly as good a bridge player as he is a writer: praise for his expertese can go no further.

It is not generally known that this Fleet Street lion after three years as a war correspondent, served for two further years in the lower deck, and only left the Navy when he was invalided out. Much of his war service was on the convoys-to-Russia route—that icy, deadly run from which so few returned.

We are not advocates of debasing the English language, but it is possible that bridge slang may creep into these columns from time to time. Each sport and pastime seems to acquire its own

vernacular. A poor player at most games is a "rabbit," but in bridge he is a "palooka," derived from a North American Indian word in the Choctaw dialect meaning, tersely—a mug. The term "onlooker" is quite inapplicable to the bridge variety, who is of a race apart: so he becomes a "kibitzer." There are many species of this gender, notably the "ambulitzer," who walks round the table in order to have a good look at all four hands; the "tchitzer," who just sits and ejaculates "Tch! Tch!"; and that very rare animal the "kibitzer without portfolio," who is not armed with the usual scoring pad on which to record the atrocities of his victims.

As we have said before, we do not cater exclusively for the tournament enthusiast; but we should again stress the fact that every player, good, bad or indifferent, should try his hand at the competitive game. The entry fees are nominal, the fun and instruction derived unlimited. There is still time to enter for the national and county events, and especially for the mammoth *Daily Graphic* contest, rightly described by the promoters as a chance for the "ordinary" player. Heats will be held in all parts of Great Britain and Eire. Not the least attractive feature will be the visit of the various area winners and, in some cases, the runners up, to London next March to contest the final for the magnificent *Daily Graphic* Trophy, with all travel and hotel expenses paid.

All enquiries should be addressed to the local County Secretaries, a list of which is given on page 43, or direct to the Secretary of the English Bridge Union.

M. HARRISON-GRAY.



# Another Rubber at the Club

by S. J. Simon

(The famous quartette from "Why You Lose at Bridge" continue their game)

"Table up!" chorused Mr. Smug, Futile Willie, and the Unlucky Expert.

A member roaming round the card room turned his head and quickly turned it away again.

They cut.

"You and I, Mr. Smug," said Mrs. Guggenheim.

"Quite," said Mr. Smug. He looked reproachfully at the pack spread out on the table. He had picked his card right at the other end from her's too!

Futile Willie settled himself expectantly.

"Forcing two, partner?" he said." Four-Five, Asking Bids, Prepared Club, Strong No-Trump, Weak Threes, and I need protection."

The Unlucky Expert looked at him. But he didn't say it.

Mr. Smug's preliminaries were shorter.

"Let me play 'em, partner," he said.

NORTH

(Mrs. Guggenheim)

♠ x  
♥ xxx  
♦ QJ9xxxx  
♣ A9

WEST  
(Futile Willie)

♠ A Q 10  
♥ Jxxx  
♦ xxx  
♣ xxx

EAST

(Unlucky Expert)

♠ xxxxx  
♥ K 10 x  
♦ A K  
♣ Kxxx

SOUTH

(Mr. Smug)

♠ KJ9xxx  
♥ A Q x  
♦ 10  
♣ QJ10x

Love All. Dealer, South.

The bidding

	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1	♠ (a)	No	2 ♦	No
2	NT (b)	No	3 ♦ (c)	No
3	NT (d)	No	No	Dble (e)

All pass.

(a) Mr. Smug is a believer in light opening bids. That much, at least, is in his favour.

(b) Mr. Smug lacks the values for his bid and knows it. But if he bids 2 Spades Mrs. Guggenheim might bid No-Trumps and play the hand!



- (c) Mrs. Guggenheim has enough to bid 3 No-Trumps. But of course she doesn't know it, so she signs off.
- (d) Mr. Smug ignores the sign-off. Anything is better than letting Mrs. Guggenheim play the hand.
- (e) The Unlucky Expert doubles on the bidding.

*The Play*

Futile Willie led a Diamond!

Personally, I consider that a double of 3 No-Trumps is only a lead directing double when dummy's suit has been bid only once and the rest of the opponents' bidding has been confident throughout. In all other cases it merely means "I think they can't make it." But doubling opponents because you think they are going down is a luxury one cannot afford when playing with a scientist like Futile Willie. You can be quite certain he will lead opponent's suit and present declarer with a tempo if not with his contract.



Both the Unlucky Expert and Mr. Smug frowned on seeing the dummy. Mr. Smug because he didn't like it and the Unlucky Expert because it was better than, in his view, it had any right to be. It is one of the fascinating aspects of the Unlucky Expert that, in

spite of continuous disillusionment, he always assumes that everybody has their bid. Accordingly he had assumed that when Mrs. Guggenheim signed off, her hand was bad enough to sign off.

Mr. Smug played the Queen from dummy, The Unlucky Expert false carding by force of habit, won with the Ace and took a short trance about what to do next. In reaching this decision he assumed inevitably that Mr. Smug had his bid and accordingly placed him with 16-17 points and at least a doubleton Diamond. And that made the outlook pretty hopeless, for declarer could establish his Diamond suit, get in with the Ace of Clubs and make a million. It was clear therefore that something drastic had to be done.

With an air of triumph the Unlucky Expert played the King of Clubs!

"Ah!" said Futile Willie approvingly. He could recognise a Deschappelles Coup when he saw one.

"Well, well, well," said Mr. Smug. "That was a funny one."

He played the ten of Clubs from his own hand, won with the Ace and led another Diamond from dummy, discarding a Spade from his own hand.

"NO Diamonds, partner?" asked Mrs. Guggenheim.

"No Diamonds?" echoed The Unlucky Expert unbelievably.

"Didn't bid them," said Mr. Smug happily. He finessed the Heart lead, entered dummy with the Nine of Clubs and made Five No-Trumps.

*Post-Mortem*

"Hard luck, partner," said Futile Willie. "I'd have made the same play myself."

# Bridge as a Social Asset

by Godfrey Winn

**T**HE other day a young reporter from the town of Birmingham where I was born came to interview me, and after a while the usual platitudes began to lie heavily on my lips and I leant forward and said something which so astonished my companion that he dropped his pencil. This is what I said: "If you really want to know to what I attribute such success as has come my way, I would say that it was due to the fact that my American grand-mother allowed and encouraged me to watch her play bridge, when I was six years old. From that day was born the ambition from which I never wavered." "To become a best-seller, you mean?" the reporter broke in, picking up his pencil again. "Not at all. To become a sufficiently competent bridge player to be able to hold my own reasonably well in any company."

I am afraid that boy from my home-town who must have been about the same age as I when my first novel was published, could not follow the argument at all, and went away puzzled and disappointed. And yet what I had told him was the truth, and nothing but the truth. Because looking back now upon the last twenty years, I am more than ever conscious of the vital influence that the game of contract bridge had upon my fortunes at what, I realize now, was the turning point in my career.

I cannot make that statement without elucidating it. I hope the



GODFREY WINN.

process will not bore you, and I will take pains to be as brief as possible.

In those days, I was a young actor on the London stage, playing the part of Marie Tempest's son in Noel Coward's "The Marquise." The play had a long run and I spent the empty days between performances in two ways. One, writing a novel: two, playing bridge at a small club in Queen's Gate. At both pastimes, I was serving my apprenticeship and learning as I went along. But in the course of time, my book was finished, accepted, published. When it received some very encouraging notices, and quickly went into a second edition, I was confronted with a decision that had to be taken. Should I give up the Stage and take to Literature? At nineteen, one thinks in capitals, and one's own future is of supreme importance.

It was at that moment that I received an invitation to dine in a friend's house, to play bridge. I was to meet that evening someone



who was a world-famous dramatist and novelist—but it was made quite clear to me that I was not being invited because of any talent I might possess for writing or acting, but simply because my fellow-guest enjoyed a game of contract, as relaxation, but did not suffer fools gladly at the bridge table.

I enjoyed the evening enormously. I held good cards, and equally important, the distribution was right. Such skill as I had acquired at my little Bridge Club was shown forth to its best advantage. At the end of the last rubber which ended in a Slam called and made, my partner leant across the table and said. "If you would like to come down to my villa in the South of France this summer, you could work on your new novel there."

My heart missed a beat at the prospect. To spend the summer in the South, to stay with the man who was—and still is—a literary god to me, and, perhaps, the greatest technician writing in the world today . . . I could not believe that the evening was to have such a sequel. But I did not know then that beneath an austere manner my host-to-be—have you already guessed it was Somerset Maugham?—conceals an attitude of great kindness and generosity towards young artists, because burned deep into his soul are his memories of the days when he himself almost starved and no one wanted to put on his plays.

Looking back now—indeed I realized it long ago—I appreciate, of course, that I was not being invited simply because my first novel showed some promise, though the author of "Of Human Bondage" was kind enough to say that it did.

After all, like contract bridge, the pattern of our social life is framed by certain conventions and signposts. One of the most obvious ones is that no one wishes to be bored—through being kind. My host, when in residence at the Villa Mauresque had two favourite relaxations. A game of tennis before dinner, a game of bridge afterwards. A house guest who could not pull his weight in a moderate four would be clearly both a bore and a nuisance.

So that was why I began to bless the memory of my American grand-mother, and why, had I a son or daughter of my own, I should take great pains to see that they had read Simon's book on why you lose at bridge at a time when too many children are forced to swallow the Iliad whole. For every evening when we sat down to play in that beautiful salon filled with treasures brought from all over the world, I counted my blessings anew. This was the life. An unique bathing pool, carved out of the side of the hill, overlooking the sweep of the bay, with orange cushions resting on the marble verge, and hibiscus blossom in full flower . . . I didn't feel like a struggling young actor or novelist then . . . but like a Roman Emperor.

And then one day before lunch, coming in from bathing, I met my host, who had just left the tower on the roof, where every morning he shut himself away, and never failed to complete his quota of not less than a thousand words. He asked me how I was getting on with my new novel. "Oh," I replied "I got stuck this morning, and it was so lovely outside."

My bathing clothes finished the sentence for me, and I did not



realize that it was really the beginning of a conversation that was to change my whole life.

Very early the next morning I was summoned by his valet to have breakfast with my host on the terrace. Afterwards he smoked his pipe and broke the friendly silence. He did not waste a word any more than he does in his books, and he came straight to the point. Idleness became no one; and there was no easy road to success: indeed, those who waited for inspiration, in the end, did just that—waited. And then he went on to explain to me, not patronizingly, but with great patience, the frame-work of his own technique: how in the beginning, he had found himself with a limited vocabulary and a style without grace: how he had slaved to make himself the master of a manufactured style, that is not only admirably lucid but as elegant today as a French essayist. Such evolutions did not come about by chance.

He finished up—and it is as fresh in my mind still as though it was this morning that we breakfasted together. "There will be many days when you will have no inclination to sit at your desk and work, as you would have to do in an office. There will be many people who in the course of the next few years will tell you that to keep regular hours at a writing desk, day after day, is to turn yourself into a machine and a hack. Do not believe them. All human beings—and especially creative artists—need self-discipline. You cannot start to acquire such self-discipline too early in your writing career. And until you acquire it, you will have no future."

My companion looked at his watch. It was nine o'clock: it was time for him to retreat into his self-imposed solitude again. I followed him along the terrace, turning my back on the hill-side, the garden glowing with zinnias, the pool that was out of a dream. Going to my room, I struggled with my new book till lunch: the next morning, I struggled again. I still struggle today . . . I would not have it otherwise . . . but in my heart I know just what I owe of all the good fortune that has come my way to that advice and that example which were imprinted so vividly upon my consciousness nearly twenty years ago.

And it all happened, remember, through my being invited to play bridge. So that to-day when I am asked what I consider are the chief attributes to success in life, I often surprise my listeners, as I surprised that young reporter, by including—and placing before an ability to Play The Game With a Straight Bat—a reasonable knowledge of how to make the most of one's cards at the bridge table.

Indeed, were I the Headmaster of a Public School, I would see that every boy had the chance to pick up the rudiments of the game, and I would institute a yearly match between my pupils and their parents, which would be played with all the solemnity of an adult contest between rival systems.

And now I have written my thousand words for to-day, I can go to the Club and enjoy myself listening to other peoples' post-mortems, which, like other peoples' lives, seem always so much more exciting than one's own!



# Crime and Punishment



3

NORTH  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ J 10 9 8 4  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ A Q J 9 6 5

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

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

Dealer, East.

North-South vulnerable.

## Bidding—Room 1

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
3 <sup>1</sup> ♠	3 NT	4 ♠	6 ♣
No	No	6 ♠	No
No	Dble		

♥ K led. East made 10 tricks.  
 300 points to North-South.

## Bidding—Room 2

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
No	1 ♥	2 ♦	4 ♣
4 ♠	5 ♣	No	6 ♥
Dble			

♠ Q led. South made 13 tricks.  
 1,810 points to North-South.

## COMMENT

The sensation of the second round of the Whitelaw Cup (the E.B.U. Ladies' Teams of Four Championship) was the defeat of Lady Rhodes' strongly fancied four by a "dark horse" team captained by Mrs. Phyllis Williams. The winning margin was 1,980, of which 1,510 points were gained on the above deal.

North-South have a grand slam in No-Trumps and in Clubs; Seven Hearts, played by South, can be defeated by an opening club lead. In Room 1 Lady Rhodes' pair battled valiantly against a brilliant pre-emptive barrage put up by Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Trott. East, with the vulnerability conditions ideal, opens with Three Spades; South takes her life in her hands and makes the conventional bid of Three No-Trumps, asking for her partner's best suit; West crowds the bidding still further, and North tries to show her powerful holding by jumping to Six Clubs. West sacrifices with Six Spades, and North makes a "forcing pass," inviting her partner to bid Seven if she can, but South can do no more.

One hesitates to criticise North-South for failing to reach the grand slam, firstly because it is

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

not easy to exchange the precise information necessary when one has to start slamming virtually at the Five level, and secondly because their opponents were quite capable of sacrificing all the way for the loss of an additional 200 points.

In Room 2, East decides not to open, but comes in on the second round after her partner's adventurous overcall of Two Diamonds, which induced her to make a "Lightner" double when Mrs. Alder and Mrs. Newman reached Six Hearts. With the expected lead of dummy's suit and a card of re-entry in her partner's hand, there were prospects of defeating the contract by two tricks; but West, whose final pass would appear indefensible, elected to lead a Spade, and the match was lost to a team who, on this hand at least, with the exception of South's palpable underbid of, Five Clubs in Room 2, had put up a first-class performance.

4

NORTH  
 ♠ K 9 8 6 5 4  
 ♥ 9 7 6 3  
 ♦ —  
 ♣ A K Q

WEST  
 ♠ Q 7 3  
 ♥ J 8 5  
 ♦ A 10 9 5 3  
 ♣ 8 5

EAST  
 ♠ J 2  
 ♥ K Q 10 4 2  
 ♦ Q 8 6 2  
 ♣ J 3

SOUTH  
 ♠ A 10  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ K J 7 4  
 ♣ 10 9 7 6 4 2

Dealer, East. Love all.

Bidding—Room 1

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

♦ A led. South made 12 tricks-

170 points to North-South (50 points bonus for part score).

Bidding—Room 2

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

♥ K led. North made 10 tricks.

170 points to North-South.

COMMENT

In the London semi-final of the Richard Lederer Memorial Cup, J. Pearlstone, supported by A. Preston, Dr. S. Lee and the ubiquitous Mrs. Williams, defeated a strong team captained by Dr. Fraser Allan, which included three International players.

Both North-South pairs got their wires badly crossed on this deal. Seven Clubs is defeated only by the opening lead of the Ace of Diamonds, and Six Spades by the lead of a Heart, yet in both rooms the bidding fizzled out for a part score. All the later bids are open to question, particularly North's "Baron" bid of Two Hearts in Room 1, which successfully clouded the issue for his side, and South's experimental reverse of Two Diamonds in Room 2, which subsequently induced him to pass to Three Spades.

We fancy that both pairs might well have reached Six Clubs had they stuck to their normal bidding methods.





## The International Outlook

by Guy Ramsey

*(This article had to be written. Although we do not necessarily agree with all the views of the author, the CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL intends to support to the full the new-found determination of the British Bridge League to make this country pre-eminent in Bridge.—ED.)*

**T**HE Internationals loom not so far ahead; and if Britain is to compete in them, she is faced with the problem of finding a team which will not disgrace her.

Before the War, we were never adequately represented—never, at least, successfully represented. The first thing for the Selectors to do is to acknowledge that fact freely... an indispensable step to doing better.

They must throw overboard methods proved unsuccessful. And the team must be recruited from those who are prepared to do for bridge what a test match team, or a rowing eight, is automatically expected to do for their particular activity: train, practise, and sacrifice.

Training means sacrifice: the giving-up of a theatre with the girl-friend; or the very profitable partnership with dear old George; or the week-end where they do you so well at the Duchess of Bilgewater's.

It is pointless to trust to Ye Olde Englishe Policy of Muddle Through and It'll Be All Right On The Night. It won't.

Bridge is not to be compared with really serious affairs, but for illustration only, I would point out that Time, in a series of short matches, cannot be On Our Side. If we go into the field as unprepared and ill-equipped as we have done hitherto, we shall lose... with no chance of winning in the last quarter of an hour, for the "war" will be over before that comes.

Before I am prepared to venture into the vexed question of discussing by name either potential players or potential trainers; before, even, detailing the methods I advocate as a necessary preliminary to selection, there are certain principles which must be openly discussed.

Up till now, these have been muttered over a drink, spoken in hints, whispered in corners. I propose to bring them out in the open. After all, a player who has heard the abuse of an enraged partner ought to be used to a little plain-speaking—especially from a journalist who has been trained by twenty-five years' experience to write, at least, without bias or malice.

Very well, then. Is Britain to field a purely British team? Or to put out to represent her a team of Britons-by-Residence only: a team of the Stateless, the Refugees, the Naturalised?





Were we to open the ranks as wide as might be, we might be in the Gilbertian position of sending out a team of *çi-devant* Austrians, trained by Paul Stern, to play against the quartette of the re-constituted Austria!

On the other hand, if we field a purely British team, it will not truly represent our cosmopolitan country, with its boast that it is the asylum of all free peoples. And it would exclude some of those whose whole lives have been made in Britain, who have served Britain—perhaps with their very blood, certainly at the risk of it.

To give an example from the past: what would have been said if Richard Lederer had been excluded on the grounds of race? It would taste in British mouths a little too much like Hitler's ban on Daniel Prenn from the German tennis team.

Between these two extremes, a mean must be found. I venture to suggest that the proportion of aliens—of whatever sort: aliens who speak with heavy accents, whose very appearance stamps them as such—should be limited to 25 per cent of the team—one in four, two in eight (if we put in reserves and alternates). After all, there was only one Ranji in the England XI.

A second point to be faced is this. The team must be not only

technically adequate but socially acceptable. There must be no such exhibitions as that which marred the Gold Cup Final. The team must avoid occasioning "incidents." The players must carry like a banner those standards of ethics and sportsmanship which are still our trade-mark on the Continent. They must be—whatever their sex, social class, profession—"gentlemen."

I, for one, had rather see Britain a bad fifth in a field of five than see her represented by anyone unfit to be an Ambassador of the Card Table.

It is a pity that on occasion the best players do not always possess the other qualifications, while the immaculate socially and ethically—the people it is a pleasure to play with, who carry their drink properly, who are *persona grata* wherever they go—may prove rabbits among wolves when it comes to tournament play.

Finally—and this ends the preliminaries—it were well, at least for the next couple of years, if those sent to carry the country's reputation bore as fair a war-time record as those borne, doubtless, by their future opponents. In this, too, Britain has a standard to display . . . and maintain. That requirement, too, may eliminate one or two "possibles" who might otherwise justly fancy their chances.

In a future article, I propose— if still alive after this bluntness of saying what all are thinking—to show what means should be taken to find, train, and bring to concert-pitch our team of the future. And to show how you and I, who play passable stuff, can help to create a victorious one even though we don't play in it and never shall.

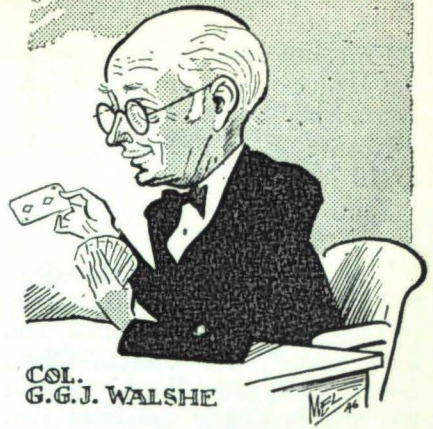


# The Opening Lead against a Slam Contract

by Col. G. G. J. Walshe

A POOR opening lead too often gives the declarer that one extra trick which he requires for his contract. In a fair proportion of ordinary hands he is dependent on faulty defensive play in the end-game for this extra trick, but in slam hands the damage is usually done at the start. The opening leader finds it too difficult to draw the necessary inferences from the bidding, and, even if he knows all the book leads by heart, these will be of little help in a situation where camouflage is of such vital importance. In ordinary situations orthodox leads such as the top of touching cards from K Q 10 4, Q J 9 4, or even J 10 8 4, pay best, but in defence against a slam contract it may be best to lead the Queen or Jack or Ten respectively from the above holdings. Camouflage can do no harm where the partner is unlikely to take a trick.

A fourth-best lead from a holding such as K 9 7 2 or Q 9 7 2 or even J 9 7 2 is definitely dangerous, but if the leader has a sure entry card he must take a risk and try to establish another winner elsewhere. No hard and fast rule can be laid down for so plastic a situation. It is common knowledge that if the six top cards in a suit are gappily divided between the two sides, an extra trick in the suit is sure to be lost by the side which first attacks that suit. The moral, then, is to avoid leading from a gappy suit.



COL.  
G.G.J. WALSHE

The leader should ask himself (1) "shall I cash my Ace, or keep it to make use of its killing power and tempo value?"; (2) "shall I lead a trump, seeing that dummy's raise in the suit suggested ruffing values?"; and (3) "shall I lead the unbid suit as the most likely chance of finding my partner at home?"

An analysis of some examples from actual play will best clarify the effects of some opening leads.

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

North, the dealer, opened with One No-Trump, and South jumped to Six Hearts. West held the Ace of Clubs as an entry card, and Spades K 9 8 2. He led the Two of Spades, hoping to set up a trick in the suit before parting with his Ace. Any other lead would have been better. South's only chance of making his contract rested upon West having led away from the King, and he let the small Spade run up to his Queen. The bidding had indicated a trump lead as the least harmful.

Here is another example where the lead of a trump would have averted a disaster.

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

The bidding had proceeded: South, the dealer, Two Spades (playing the Two-Clubs); North, Five Spades, a maximum raise; South, Six Spades. North's support for Spades clearly indicated that the lead of a trump was safest. West, however, led the Three of Hearts from J 7 6 3 to dummy's Two and East's Ten. Had East played his Ace the necessary twelve tricks would have been in sight. In the end-game which followed, East bared his Ace of Hearts to keep a guard in Clubs (Q J 8), and the declarer successfully ran his Nine of Hearts to force the Ace. The contract was really safe after the opening lead. It is interesting to note that the side which first attacked Hearts, with a joint holding of A J 10 against K Q 9, lost a trick in the suit, the one trick which the declarer required for his contract.

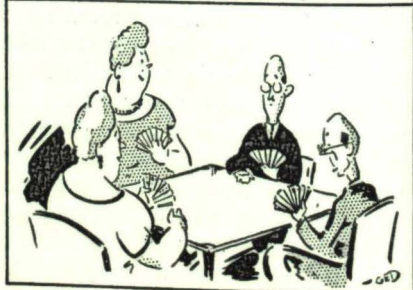
Here is another example where the lead away from an unprotected high card made the play too easy for the declarer.

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

The lead of a trump was indicated on the bidding: North, One Club; South, One Spade; North, Four No-Trumps (Blackwood), implying strong support for Spades; South, Five Diamonds, showing one Ace; North, Six Spades.

West, holding ♠ J 8 5 ♥ 6 3  
 ♦ K 7 6 2 ♣ K 8 7 6, led the Six of Clubs to dummy's Nine and East's Two. East did not cover with the Jack, as this would have set up sufficient tricks for the declarer after conceding a trick in Clubs. The opening lead gave in all to the declarer three discards of losing Diamonds, one on the Nine of Clubs, one on the Ace, and one on the long Club when established. Only a trick in Hearts was lost.

## STORY WITHOUT WORDS





# Personality Page

No. 2—A. Noel Mobbs, O.B.E.

**A**RTHUR NOEL MOBBS, O.B.E., is the Chairman of the Portland Club and he looks every inch—all 74 of them—a Chairman.

He is big ; he is burly ; he is genial. He has an infectious grin which smiles away all difficulties. He has an imposing presence before which opposition dwindles. He has a breadth of vision which perceives the other man's point of view. He has also a tenacity of purpose which holds steadfastly to his own.

Mobbs is interested in bridge—but it is not only, not even his main, interest. He has other Chairmanships to his name : Slough Estates, Ltd., The United Motor Finance Corporation, Ltd., and other public companies which he does not trouble to list.

He was born just 66 years ago, educated at Bedford Modern, and is a member of a well-known sporting family. Apart from the considerable name which he has made in the business world, he is deeply engaged in local activities at Stoke Poges, where he lives as a benevolent Lord of the Manor : hospitals, the National Trust, the Nuffield Health Services Fund, all look to him—not in vain.

The photograph on our cover is from the portrait by L. Campbell-Taylor, R.A., exhibited in this year's academy, and shows him in the robes of High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire.

When it comes either to finance (either providing it or organising it) or to a good cause, the first man to whom his neighbours, his friends, his acquaintances—and



even strangers—turn is A. Noel Mobbs.

He is perhaps more proud of his foundation, the Slough Social Centre, than of anything else in his life. This institution has turned the once dreary industrial town that straggles down the Great West Road into a virile and enthusiastic community, infected—as the people down there boast—with the Mobbs spirit and ruled by Mobbs Law.

His pastimes were tennis, golf and curling—especially curling on which, in 1929, he wrote what is still the classic book. But arthritis, which has given his giant frame a slight twist and stiffened his gait into a limp, has put paid to athletics.

So he plays bridge, for preference privately, although his is a familiar figure at the great Congresses. He can hold his own in any company, and captained the winning team in one of the pre-war contests for the Portland Cup.

With Harold Vanderbilt he was responsible for the latest laws of the game. He is President of the British Bridge League. He is determined that only the best is good enough for British bridge-players.



# Killarney Congress

*by Walter Ricardo*

**T**HE annual Killarney Congress was held last month. As usual, the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland arranged this meeting in a delightful way, giving you no great concentration of competitive bridge, so that you could enjoy the beauties of Killarney to your heart's content. Let us dispose of the bridge first.

The winners of the various Congress events are listed on another page. It was a grand performance on the part of Bob Frith and Doreen Hopewell to win the "Dawn" Cup, which carries the title of the South of Ireland Pairs Championship, and they can now add this trophy to the North of Ireland Pairs Championship which they won in 1937 at Belfast. A homeless white terrier attached himself to their party and, acting as a mascot, like Mr. Britling, "saw them through," returning with them to Nottingham. Bob is incidentally a good fisherman as well as a disciple of the "Vienna"

system, and fresh trout for breakfast at the Lake Hotel was an added treat.

The previous holders of the "Dawn" Cup were that redoubtable father and son combination, the O'Connells of Cork, who were present with a host of fine Irish, English, Scottish and Welsh players. The international flavour was very keen, even extending to the Isle of Man. From Kerry came the O'Sullivans, all fighting hard to keep their trophies from leaving their county, yet handing them over with that old world courtesy that makes a visit to Killarney the pleasure that it is.

Congratulations to Ralph Niman's team, which included the one and only Joel Tarlo, of B.B.C. and All-England fame, on lifting the Loc Lein Trophy with its beautiful replicas. After a really exciting finish, they got home by one point over a team of Northern Ireland experts, Professor Alan McKinnon, George Hanna, the



evergreen Col. G. G. J. Walshe, and Mrs. McConkey, the Irish international. A well-known Cork team, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cohen, Con Kelliher and Jim Sullivan, had the mortification of leading by four match points with two rounds to go, to find that they could pick up only two more points in the final rounds. A remarkable performance was put up by a team of Welsh ladies, Mesdames Semington, Foden, Franklyn Jones and MacDonald, who led the field for two thirds of the event, finishing up in fourth place.

The Congress was a triumph of organisation for the C.B.A.E. and for Johnny Morgan, the international player, and Babs Mahoney, a very charming and efficient tournament director. Under these two directors the boards moved swiftly and smoothly, and I heard of no case where an average had to be given for misboarding.

On Saturday night the prize-giving and dance were held in the Town Hall, with the genial President, Dr. Magnier, giving away the trophies, and though we all missed the ceremony of the prize-winners being piped up with music to receive their cups, which was such a delightful feature last season at the Southern Hotel, there was so much hospitality shown to the visitors that we could not say "We came, we saw, we conquered"—

it was our hosts who conquered us as only the Irish can.

Let us forget our Aces and Kings for a moment, and revert to the beauty spots of this Eden of the West. There was the Gap of Dunloe to visit, where you ride on ponies and shoot the rapids in Wild West fashion, the drive round the Kerry Ring, passing Valentia Island, where the transatlantic communications are issued, the lobster ponds at Caher-na-Din, the Torc waterfall, and the Lake Drive; and, ever to be remembered among the beauty spots, the little bar in Killarney run by Mrs. O'Leary, who can make the song "If you ever go to Ireland, will you kiss my dear mother for me," live for us all. The only thing that we were ever short of besides sleep was Scotch whisky, but Mrs. O'Leary could always manage one for the road.

So much for a most delightful visit. Killarney Congress is to be held next year early in May, and the weather—not that it was worse than our own—will be better. I have no space in which to dwell on the golf course, the pride and achievement of the late Lord Castlerosse, which is in itself worth going to Killarney to play on. There are daily golf competitions, with prizes given by the local townfolk, which will be a further attraction next May.





GORDON  
D.  
JOHNSTONE

## Duplicate Bridge Organisation

by Gordon D. Johnstone

**I** NEVER play in these Competitions because it is all so very complicated and confusing and I have never been able to work out how they finally decide who wins."

"Oh, no, I've never played in Competitive Bridge—I'm not good enough to play against all these experts."

These and similar remarks are heard all too frequently and the object of this and subsequent articles will be to explain as simply as possible the "mechanics" of Duplicate Bridge organisation and I hope to establish, at any rate for the readers of this Magazine, that Duplicate Bridge is not the fearsome night-and-day occupation of a small coterie of experts, but is one of the finest methods of playing the very finest indoor game there is.

The principal advantage which many of us derive from playing in Duplicate Contests is that we do, at any rate, know that the bad hands we hold are held by somebody else as well and that we are not, as is so frequent in Rubber Bridge, alone in our misery with our "Yarboroughs."

Over many years mathematicians have succeeded in evolving

"Movements" (methods of organising play) whereby practically any combination of players can take part in a Duplicate Competition of some sort.

We have Individual Movements which provide for each player in a particular Competition playing in turn with each other player in that Competition as partner and playing in turn with each other competitor as his left-hand opponent and as his right-hand opponent, and the movement of Boards is so arranged as to provide for each and every one of the competitors in that particular event all playing the same hands.

Next there is the ordinary Pairs Movement known as the "Mitchell Movement" whereby the Pairs taking part (and there may be any number for this type of Competition) sitting North-South play against all the other Pairs sitting East-West respectively and in this Competition the scoring is so arranged that the winners are determined by comparison of the scores with those Pairs who have sat in the same position at the table.

For the more advanced and important Competitions there is a



more involved and exact Movement known as the "Howell Movement," which provides, by the use of a very neat but intricate mathematical formula, for each of the Pairs taking part to play each of the other Pairs, the results for the Competition being assessed on a system of awarding points (as opposed to aggregate scoring).

Finally, there are Team Matches, which may be between Teams of Four, Eight and any of the multiples thereof, and this Competition can be organised as between any number of Teams from two upwards.

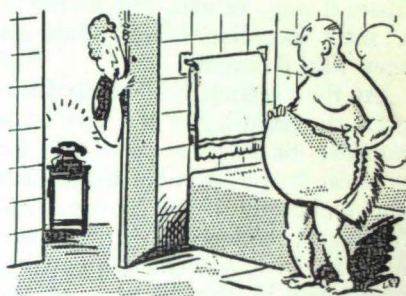
To those readers of the Magazine who have not taken part in Duplicate Tournaments—and to them this article is largely directed—some of the foregoing may sound very complicated, but from the competitor's point of view there should be, under competent Tournament direction, no difficulty



or complication at all, because the players are provided with one of two things; either each player is given a sheet explaining the Movement in which he, or she, is participating, or there is at each table a sheet of instructions. These instructions are generally known as "Movement Cards" and "Table Cards" respectively and are prepared by the Tournament Manager,

who, incidentally, should be the only person in the room having any worries about who plays with whom, and when, and where.

And now to the horses. Alec Hasler published, many years ago, a very excellent textbook called "Duplicate Bridge Simplified" and in his introduction thereto he said that he hoped that, having published the book, he would not in the future receive requests—as he had by the score—at the oddest



of times and in the most impossible situations for advice as to how to run a Competition. He assured his readers that in the future upon receiving any requests he would say, "Read my book." The writer, in his turn, receives most regular and frequent requests not only to advise in the running of a Competition, but also to assist in its organisation and I therefore hope for the future to be able to say, "Read the Bridge Journal."

From the whole of the foregoing it will be apparent that the most important person in the successful organisation of any form of Competition is the Tournament Manager, and this "Pooh Bah" and "Panjandrum" is expected to have the knowledge of a mathematical Don, the charm of manner usually associated with Royalty, the firmness and authority of a

Regimental Sergeant-Major and the imperturbability of the Nelson Column. Given these attributes and given a man or woman who can never—in any circumstances—be flustered or induced to lose his or her temper, you have the perfect Tournament Manager.

We are most fortunate in this country that we have such a wealth of first-class Tournament Managers all of whom pour into this game of Duplicate Bridge their enthusiasm and keenness for very little, if any, return, but merely—a most peculiar reason—because they like doing it.

At the recent Cheltenham Congress the handling of the very large number of entries reflected the greatest credit upon the experience and technique of the Tournament Managers concerned. Mr. and Mrs. H. D. King occupy a position unrivalled in the country as the leading authorities and experts on all forms of Competitive Movements; Mrs. E. Bailey has, for many years, been known in the North of England as a first-rate and “unupsettable” Tournament Manager (Mrs. Bailey is particu-

larly good in handling large Pairs Movements), Mr. G. Humble has organized Competitions of nearly every size and shape in the London and Home Counties area and Mr. F. Bingham manages to make a complicated Team of Four or Pairs Movement look something very simple. Scotland, Ireland and Wales are all equally well served and I know of nobody who has given more thought and study to Competitive Organisation than Mr. F. E. Perry, the enthusiastic and well-known Secretary of the Welsh Contract Bridge Association.

In the next article in this series will be outlined the equipment necessary for the organisation of Competitions for specified Movements and specified numbers of players and it will also deal with short descriptions of various Pairs Movements. Readers, however, who have particular points of Tournament Direction, which they would like dealt with through the columns of this Journal are invited to write to the Editorial Department and we will do our best to include the replies within the scope of this series.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO NOVEMBER ISSUE

C. DENIS FREEMAN—eminent author and theatrical producer.

ADAM MEREDITH—London's leading “super-scientist.”

A. J. SMITH—well-known journalist and Bridge author.

S. J. SIMON, IAIN MACLEOD and GORDON D. JOHNSTONE will continue their monthly features; DR. PAUL STERN will contribute an article on safety plays; GEOFFREY L. BUTLER will discuss the advisability of leading trumps in defence; and EDMUND PHILLIPS will write on aspects of the Take-Out Double.



# How good are you?



## Can you make this Contract?

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

Hand 4

Hand 3

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

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

Dealer, South. Game all.

West leads ♦ 10.

Played in a pairs contest of 15 tables. Only one pair bid Six Spades, and South, Adam Meredith, brilliant London player, made 12 tricks.

Can you make this contract?

Dealer, South. Love all.

West leads ♥ 3.

North-South bid Six No Trumps, on these cards in a Teams of Four match. Dr. Paul Grosser, a fine Czech player now living in London, made 12 tricks, sitting South.

Can you make this contract?

(Solutions on page 33)

## THIS MONTH'S CONUNDRUM

Have you ever held ten cards in one suit?

A well-known player sitting South recently picked up:  
 ♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♥ None. ♦ None. ♣ 8 5 3

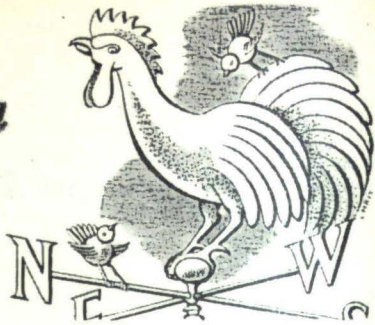
He became the declarer at a contract of *Two Diamonds*. There was no misnomer, slip of the tongue, or infraction of the rules.

How did this happen?

(Answer on page 37)

# The Northern Outlook

by Ewart Kempson



WE have received the following letter from a reader: "I often wonder what the experts do when not playing bridge. Can you, the greatest of them all, enlighten me, please?"

Our correspondent, obviously a highly intelligent man, will be glad to know that the *Contract Bridge Journal's* research department has recently compiled a file entitled "What They Do," extracts from which are as follows:—

Mr. E. Bruce Parker spends his leisure moments beating Mrs. E. Bruce Parker with an iron railing.

Major G. Fell, sometimes called the whispering baritone, lives in Yorkshire where he may often be seen speaking to his friends in Devonshire without the use of the old-fashioned telephone.

Mr. Ben Cohen is at present entering into negotiations with the Maltese minority in Latvia to become chairman of the Lower Latvian Whist League.

Mr. George Nelson is taking to art.

The rest of the file is devoted entirely to the activities of Mr. Iain Macleod. At the end of the file is a footnote to the effect that the term "bridge expert" cannot be truly applied to anyone without a Yorkshire birth qualification.

Our other correspondent has complained that no reference was made to bridge in our last article, so here we go:—



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

WEST  
 ♠ J 9 8 4  
 ♥ K Q 9 6 4 3  
 ♦ K 9  
 ♣ 5

EAST  
 ♠ 7  
 ♥ J 8 7 5  
 ♦ Q 10 7 5 4 2  
 ♣ 10 2

SOUTH  
 ♠ K 10 5 3  
 ♥ A  
 ♦ 8 3  
 ♣ K Q 9 8 7 3



Sitting South, Mr. T. S. Wraith dealt and bid One Club, Mr. Harry Esther (West) bid One Heart, we called Two Spades and Major Geoffrey Fell bid Three Hearts.

Mr. Wraith, whose tongue was now sticking out about a foot and a half, bid Four Hearts and we were foolish enough to jump to Six Clubs. South's bid of Four Hearts clearly shows good support for North's Spades, therefore North might have made a mark-time bid instead of rushing so violently into the Club slam.

West led the King of Hearts and South at once saw that he only had to cater for J x x in Spades being with West. Being the first class player that he is, Wraith tried to prepare for this distribution.

After two rounds of Clubs he led dummy's Ace of Diamonds. He argued that West held six Hearts and probably the King of Diamonds. If that player did hold four Spades, he had only two Diamonds.

Selby Wraith's plan was to take the Ace of Diamonds, ruff a Heart and then lead a second Diamond. West would be forced to win and to lead a Spade (giving South four Spade tricks) or a Heart, giving South a ruff and discard.

But Mr. Harry Esther played in a most ungentlemanly manner; he threw his King of Diamonds under the Ace, having carefully noted Major Fell's Seven of Diamonds. (Only a cad could have thought of signalling with the Seven of Diamonds).

Conscious of the foul work being perpetrated by the defence, Mr. Wraith abandoned his plan and played out all his trumps, discarding a Spade and a Diamond from dummy. This allows North to

retain three Spades, one Heart and one Diamond while South has four Spades and a Diamond.

A Spade to dummy's Ace and Queen is followed by the 10 of Hearts, West being forced to win and lead a Spade at the 12th trick. But Mr. Esther again rose to the occasion, discarding the Queen of Hearts in a most uncouth manner.

Mr. Wraith was thus one down and, when he had recovered his tongue (which was now wandering round an adjacent room), he had a great deal to say regarding our bid of Six Clubs.

This, though hard to bear, was as nothing compared with the hurricane which blew from an easterly position.



Next month we hope to give full details of the Wales v. England match. This contest, which should decide the 1946 winners of the Camrose Trophy, now held by Northern Ireland, promises to be a thrilling struggle.

The England team is a strong one, the following having been selected:—

M. Harrison-Gray, Iain Macleod, Leo Baron, N. Squire, L. Ellison and Dr. J. Whitby.

Wales relies on Simon Rivlin, Abbey Stone, E. J. Carter, D. McAllister, E. Fine, and H. Belman. Frank Perry is the non-playing captain.



# News from Eire

by Noel Byrne

ALL previous records were broken at Killarney's Congress last month, and it was only by requisitioning private houses that Hon. Secs. Dr. E. N. M. O'Sullivan and Kevin O'Farrel were able to accommodate all those wishing to take part. Upwards of 100 came from across the water, including leading players from England, Scotland and Wales, and with such a strong cross-Channel challenge it was expected that one, if not two, of the principal trophies would be leaving our shores. These predictions came true, and the "Dawn" Cup went to Nottingham, while the "Loc Lein" Trophy was annexed by the genial Yorkshireman, Ralph Niman, whose teammates were H. Franklin and English Internationals J. Tarlo and S. Merkin. The home players were by no means out of the running, however, and just failed to retain the major trophy. The visitors were loud in their praises of the organisation of the Congress, and the running of the various events, and for this bouquets go to the Tournament Director, J. P. Morgan (Dublin) and his efficient assistant, Miss Mahony of Cork.

After topping the qualifying rounds, Niman and Tarlo struck a bad run in the "Dawn" Cup and, despite a terrific finish, were

placed no higher than seventh. In this competition, however, Niman has particularly happy recollections of the following deal, where he made a spectacular lead which defeated a contract and earned a clear top.

		NORTH	
		♠	63
		♥	A Q J 9 7
		♦	4 3 2
		♣	K J 9
EAST		WEST	
♠	K 4 2	♠	A Q J 10 8
♥	K 5 3	♥	10 8
♦	9 7 5	♦	K J 10 8 6
♣	A Q 8 6	♣	2
		SOUTH	
		♠	9 7 5
		♥	6 4 2
		♦	A Q
		♣	10 7 5 4 3

South (Niman) dealt at Game All, and the final contract was Three Spades by East after North (Tarlo) had opened with One Heart and East had bid Spades and Diamonds. Four Spades is a reasonable contract, but Niman led the Ace of Diamonds and switched to a low Heart. Tarlo won with the Queen and returned a Diamond; East, assuming South had led a singleton, played the Ten, and the Queen won the trick. Another Heart put North in to return a Diamond which South trumped to set the contract.\*



**CONGRESS WINNERS**

**DAWN CUP.**—N. R. C. FRITH and Mrs. D. N. Hopewell (Nottingham).

**LOC LEIN TROPHY.**—R. Niman, H. Franklin (Leeds), J. Tarlo, S. Merkin (London).

**BEST MUNSTER TEAM OF FOUR.**—Mr. and Mrs. M. Cohen, J. Sullivan, C. Kellehir (Cork).

**CONSOLATION TEAMS OF FOUR.**—H. Brostoff, Miss P. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Corwen (Leeds).

**OPEN PAIRS EVENTS.**—Mrs. N. Atkinson (Belfast) and M. F. O'Connell (Cork), Miss T. Magnier (Fermoy) and W. F. Quinlan (Tralee), Miss C. Morgan and J. M. Stanley (Drogheda), R. Niman and H. Brostoff (Leeds), Mr. and Mrs. M. Cohen (Cork), Mr. and Mrs. Emyln Lewis (Swansea), L. Feehan (Dundalk) and E. Rice (Fermoy), Mrs. D. N. Hopewell and N. R. C. Frith (Nottingham), Capt. W. H. Ricardo and Mrs. E. Morgan (Cardiff), Col. G. G. J. Walshe (London) and W. J. L. O'Connell (Cork), J. Tarlo (London) and R. Niman (Leeds), Mrs. C. Roy and P. Quinn (Dublin), Mrs. Briers and Miss

D. Kleuser (Nottingham), Mrs. McCluskey and Miss A. O'Kelly (Dublin), Mrs. Foden and Mrs. Semington (Wales), Mr. and Mrs. D. Gould (Cardiff), Trevor Williams and Mrs. N. David (Cardiff), J. A. Hunter and M. Cullen (Dun Laoghaire), M. F. O'Connell (Cork) and Mrs. J. M. O'Sullivan (Tralee), J. Sullivan (Cork) and Mrs. D. G. Bonnyman (Cardiff), Barry O'Connell (Cork) and Mrs. J. O'Neill (Dublin), B. Barry (Dun Laoghaire) and Mrs. K. Burke (Dublin), Mr. and Mrs. D. Lyne (Dublin), Mr. and Mrs. E. O'Mahony (Fermoy), P. Hilliard and Dr. J. I. O'Sullivan (Killarney), Miss S. Murphy and Mrs. K. O'Farrell (Killarney), Mrs. Summers (Brighton) and Mrs. Briers (Nottingham), Mrs. S. H. Draper and Mrs. H. P. Dockrell (Dun Laoghaire), Mrs. S. H. Draper and P. Bardon (Dun Laoghaire).

*\* It seems to us that the contract might well have been defeated by the normal opening lead of a Heart, followed by a switch to Diamonds by North; this, however, does not detract from the brilliant reasoning behind Niman's lead.—ED.*

# Result of our September Crossword

DID YOU FIND THIS  
ONE FAR TOO EASY?

B	L	A	C	K	W	O	O	D	S	T	R	I	P
A	F	I	U	E	U	A	O						
D	A	T	E	S	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N
L	E	S	C	F	T	S	T						
U	N	R	E	T	U	R	N	E	D	Z	E	R	O
C	H	Y	A	C	C	O							
K	I	S	M	E	T	T	R	Y	A	G	A	I	N
H	R	A	S	R	I								
F	L	A	V	O	U	R	S	N	I	E	N	T	Z
I	R	D	T	W	C	N							
N	A	P	E	H	I	G	H	A	N	D	E	D	
E	E	S	S	I	T	O	P						
S	I	N	G	L	E	T	O	N	U	S	U	A	L
S	E	U	I	E	R	B	A						
E	L	D	E	R	C	O	R	R	E	C	T	L	Y



## News from Northern Ireland

by A. J. Fletcher

The 1946-47 season is now in full swing. The qualifying round of the Belfast Pairs Championship, Mitchell Movement, was held in the Carlton on September 21st. A very close finish resulted in a tie for top place between C. Sampson and J. Gordon, and A. Mackinnon and A. J. Fletcher, with Mrs. McKee and H. Anderson only four Match Points away. An even more narrow result occurred in the final in the Kelvin Club on the 28th September under the Howell Schedule, when Mackinnon and Fletcher and E. D. Goldblatt and B. Vard tied with 129 Match Points with Gordon and Sampson just one point behind. Especially deserving of mention is the performance of these last two. Sampson has been playing consistently for some time but Gordon has only recently come from Scotland, so that the partnership has not had much opportunity to develop. Sometimes, of course, that is an advantage!

During the final the play was of a high standard, but on Board 7 no one arrived at a game contract in Hearts or Clubs, which seems the most reasonable try. In every case a No-Trumps contract was reached, twice the small slam being bid, which once was five down on a Spade lead. Here is the complete deal:—

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

Dealer, South. Game All.

Provincial Clubs have been affiliating in increasing numbers. Now that a Derry club has enrolled, the Union's activities cover most of the area, though there are still a number of towns not represented. It is hoped that the present season will find these becoming members of the Union. Outstanding amongst the provincials, indeed even outside this limit, is the Portadown Club. Of comparatively recent origin, it has made wonderful progress both in membership and playing ability. Already a number of open events have been won and if improvement continues at the present rate, there is no doubt that the highest honours are in store. A large portion of the credit for this success is due to the present Secretary, Wilfie Robb, who has the knack of transmitting his own zeal to others. He has able helpers in the former Secretary, George Sloan, the ubiquitous Jimmy Green and Mrs. Burnett. The only regret on a visit to the Club is that Tom Burnett is no longer in evidence. There may be found also probably the most improved player in Northern Ireland in the Club's Captain, Tom Berry, who has made wonderful strides in recent years.





# Scottish Notes

by Albert Benjamin

The solid meat of competitive bridge in Scotland is the various District League games between club teams of 8-a-side. In the Edinburgh zone, the league this year will probably be run in three sections. The *Evening News* Cup, not contested for since 1938, will again be up for competition. The winning team may come from Dundas, Carlton "A" or Carlton Nomads. Some new clubs have entered the lowest division. The system of promotion and relegation helps to maintain the keenness in all sections of the league.

In the Glasgow zone, 56 clubs are taking part. Four separate sections of the League were required and the matches are now in full swing. Buchanan and Glasgow Jewish Institute have each won the League Trophy on three occasions (no other club ever having won) and each will be keen to outdo the other this year. But Civic, Setayro Park, Eglinton and others will not allow the championship to be won easily.

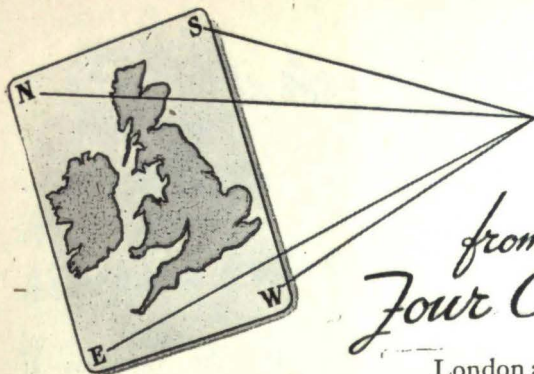
Little interest has hitherto been shown by Scottish players in the B.B.L. Competitions. For various reasons, an increased representation can be looked for this season.

Perhaps we may see a Scottish team win for the first time one of this year's major events.

Entries for the Congress at Dunblane Hydro on 25-28 October have been more numerous than expected and those who attend can be sure of an enjoyable week-end. Tournament direction will be in the capable hands of Mr. G. H. Kershaw, bridge correspondent of the *Glasgow Evening News* and *Daily Record*.

The healthy state of bridge affairs in the new Central District is to a large extent due to the enthusiasm of Dundee devotees of the game. It is just two years since the first private club was formed in the city. The success of the Dundee Club has exceeded the hopes of the founders. Of many friendly matches played, only one has so far been lost. Their leading couple, A. Cameron and H. S. Robb, were runners-up in last years Scottish National Pairs Championship.

Messrs. W. A. McKerrow, R. R. French and R. Gray have been appointed to select the Scottish teams for the forthcoming international matches. A comprehensive series of trial games have been arranged, and some pairs may be required to play approximately 200 hands, to provide data on which the selectors can act. The selectors view their task seriously, and win or lose, Scotland will field her best team.



from the  
*Four Corners*

## London

The new London County Contract Bridge Association, which was formed last May, under the Chairmanship of M. Harrison-Gray, has already done valuable work in helping new Clubs to get going and to improve the standard of play of their members. With the wealth of talent at its disposal, the Association is always ready to supply experienced lecturers and tournament directors at short notice, and to arrange exhibition matches and demonstrations by experts.

Although the Association does not confine its activities to competitive Bridge, it has prepared for its members and prospective members the most comprehensive programme of events yet offered by a Bridge organisation. The Tournament Committee's task has not been an easy one, for the territory covered ranges from the most exclusive West End Clubs to the vast reservoir of potential talent in the London business houses and factory Clubs; it has therefore followed the example of the E.B.U. in catering both for the acknowledged expert and the keen newcomer to the competition game. Pending the revival of the regional

London and Home Counties C.B.A. players from the following counties will be invited to take part in the various events: Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex.

A brochure will shortly be issued giving full details of the main events, which are as follows:

THE MELVILLE SMITH TROPHY (Open Championship for Teams-of-Four in the London area), run as in the past in the form of a straight knock-out, with the innovation that each member of a team must play an equal number of boards with each team-mate during the course of a match.

THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" CUP. As before, each county will provide its best team for the ten-team final of the "most enjoyable contest of the year." The final will again take place under unique conditions in the *Daily Telegraph* building.

THE DUVEEN SHIELD, run as before in the form of a League contest for Teams-of-Six, with several divisions. This is the ideal instrument for infusing fresh blood into duplicate, as teams of moderate strength play against opponents of their own standing until they become good enough to tackle the crack teams in a higher division; a system of promotion and relegation is used.



A NEW RUBBER DUPLICATE COMPETITION for Teams-of-Four representing Clubs in the London area.

THE COMMITTEE CUP, a Teams-of-Four event confined to players who have not previously achieved success in National competitions.

THE LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES MASTERS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP, an invitation event

confined to players of known first-class ability.

THE LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP, each county providing its best pairs to take part in the two-session final.

A NEW PAIRS CONTEST FOR MARRIED COUPLES, in an attempt to settle the long-standing debate as to who are our best husband and wife combinations.

## North-Western

THE North Western Contract Bridge Association Congress which is to take place at the Casino, Blackpool, on October 25th, 26th and 27th, looks like being a great success, judging by early entries and hotel reservations. There will be six Open Pairs contests, a Teams-of-Four open event, an invitation Teams-of-Four, and the twelve-a-side Lancashire v. Yorkshire match. North-West Pairs Championship final will also be staged. This competition has already started, and results received so far are as follows :

### Qualifying Pairs—Southport

- S. Goldstone and S. Yates.
- Mrs. A. C. Douglass and V. Vernon.
- Mrs. Charnley and Mrs. Deaves.
- Mr. and Mrs. Beaver.

### Qualifying Pairs—Liverpool

- Mr. and Mrs. W. Bruce.
- Mr. and Mrs. Fern.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ker.
- Mrs. Goldson and Miss McKenna.

An interesting hand in the Liverpool competition was the following :

	NORTH	
	♠ 97542	
	♥ 852	
	♦ 85	
	♣ KJ10	
WEST		EAST
♠ J103		♠ AKQ86
♥ AJ7		♥ Q10963
♦ 10		♦ 2
♣ Q86543		♣ A7
	SOUTH	
	♠ —	
	♥ K4	
	♦ AKQJ97643	
	♣ 92	

Dealer, South. Love All.

At most tables South opened cautiously with Three or Four Diamonds, and East naturally came in with Three or Four Spades. In some cases the final contract was Five Diamonds doubled, one down, and at a few tables Five Spades was made. At only one table was the correct opening bid of Five Diamonds made, and East was faced with the problem of whether or not to bid against it ; eventually he doubled. Some suggested afterwards that he should have bid Five Spades, but were inclined to revise their opinions when he pointed out that if the King of Hearts is in the North hand, the contract can fail by five tricks.

# Yorkshire

It is a time-honoured jest that when Lancashire and Yorkshire meet at cricket, the players exchange "Good Morning's," after which the only conversation is "How's That!" But in the Bridge "Battle of the Roses," though there may be such phrases as "Sorry, partner," we feel sure there will be no "How's That." The Yorkshire team to play Lancashire at the Blackpool Congress will be: Geo. Nelson, capt. (Leeds) and C. Vickerman (Huddersfield), Mrs. F. B. Bailey and F. H. Smith (Hull), Miss S. T. Binns (Leeds) and Mrs. E. M. Turner (Halifax), Dr. W. E. Dornan and D. Brown (Sheffield), Mrs. H. Everett and Mrs. R. Corwen (Leeds), Major G. Fell (Keighley) and R. Niman (Leeds), H. Franklyn and R. Mercado (Leeds), J. Morrison and A. E. Field (Harrogate), Mrs. M. S. Rankin and Mrs. L. Hadfield (Sheffield), Dr. M. Rushton and A. O. Craven (Bradford), J. H. Taylor and Dr. J. Wright (Bradford), R. Vincent and H. Brostoff (Leeds).

It will be seen that the team is fairly representative of the County, with a good sprinkling of the fair sex.

The second half of the match is to be played at the Harrogate Congress on November 17th. but not necessarily by the above team. The match being played in this way gives the Y.C.B.A. Selection Committee an excellent opportunity to know where our strength lies for future matches.

Mr. John Morrison tells me that entries for the Harrogate Congress are coming in remarkably well from

all over the British Isles, and he expects this first post-war Congress at Harrogate to be the biggest ever held there.

The following hand was played recently at the Leeds Aysgarth Bridge Club:

East-West vulnerable.

Dealer West.

		NORTH		
		♠ J 9		
		♥ x x		
		♦ A J x x x x		
		♣ Q 10 x		
WEST			EAST	
♠ A 10 x x x		♠ K x x x		
♥ 10		♥ K x x x		
♦ Q x		♦ x		
♣ A x x x x		♣ J x x x		
		SOUTH		
		♠ Q x		
		♥ A Q J 9 x x		
		♦ K x x x		
		♣ K		

R. Vincent sat West and playing Acol opened One Club. R. Niman (North) passed. H. Franklyn (East) bid One Heart. Now what should South bid? G. Nelson put in a bid of Two Diamonds. West bid Two Spades and North bid Five Diamonds, which was doubled. The 10 of Hearts was led after which Six Diamonds was cold. There was some leg pulling about that bid of Two Diamonds. "Well" G.N. said, "I was prepared to bid Two Hearts if doubled, but you must admit it was very difficult to bid the Slam." Niman's Five Diamonds was a good bid made with the idea of possibly being two down, for after the vulnerable opponents had made constructive bids he felt they had a certain game. So many funny things happen in this game of Contract that Wilfred Pickles' signature tune "Have a



Go, Joe" may be said to be a good bridge slogan.

Yorkshire bridge players were pleased to see the honour paid to Mr. Gordon D. Johnstone in being elected Chairman of the E.B.U. Mr. Johnstone was one time honorary secretary of the Y.C.B.A. and did much towards putting it on the firm basis it now enjoys.

## Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire Contract Bridge Association has got off to a flying start for the 1946-47 Season and the brochure of Competitions is expected to be in the hands of the Members very shortly. They are, as in previous years, organising the County Teams of Four, the County League, the County Pairs and the County Individual Championships.

The Membership of the Association has recently entitled them to another delegate to the English Bridge Union and Mr. R. F. P. Holloway, of Bristol, has been appointed.

The Members nominated for the England v. The Rest series of trials are:

Gordon D. Johnstone and Hugh Collins ;

E. C. Johnson and A. Jacobs ;

Mrs. A. V. Morgan and J. N. Collett, and

R. F. P. Holloway and R. B. Everett.

## Devon

The *Western Morning News* have again offered their Championship Trophy for competition amongst West Country Teams of Four, under the auspices of the Devon

C.B.A. Qualifying rounds are being played during October in Exeter, Plymouth, Taunton and Torquay, and the finals will be held in Torquay on November 8th.

The Livermead Cliff Bridge Club (Torquay) will hold its first post-war Congress on November 8th, 9th and 10th, in response to many requests for its revival. The principal events are the South West Championship for Teams of Four (holders—Col. H. M. Beasley's team) and the South West Pairs Championship (holders—Lt.-Col. G. Lawton and Mrs. Flemmich). Entries are limited to a maximum of 25 teams.

The honour of travelling the greatest distance in order to compete goes to Dr. Twyning, who will captain a Team of Four from Blackpool, Lancashire.

## Hertfordshire

The Annual General Meeting and first Pairs event of the Hertfordshire Bridge Association were held on October 3rd at the Harpenden Hall. W. H. Weightman was re-elected Chairman, C. Worssam, Hon. Treasurer and G. Humble, Tournament Manager and representative on the E.B.U. Council. P. R. Hall, 128, Piggotts Hill Lane, Harpenden (Phone 3735) was elected Hon. Secretary and Mr. Stokes was thanked for his work for the Association during the past year.

It was agreed to change the date of the end of the financial year to 31st March to fit in with the E.B.U. programme and to enable the new Committee to plan the following winter's programme during the preceding summer.

A full programme of "Local" events is being arranged and it is hoped that Members will support the competitions arranged by the E.B.U. Results of local events and local heats of the E.B.U. events will appear in the *Contract Bridge Journal*.

## Kent

Duplicate Bridge is definitely reviving in Kent, and entries have now closed for the Winter League and the Arnold Cup, the two main events of the Kent Contract Bridge Association (Hon. Sec., Mrs. M. A. A. Harvey, 24 Molyneux Park, Tunbridge Wells).

Both competitions are for Teams-of-Four. The League is played in three divisions, with a cup for each. The last time the contest was held, during the 1939-40 season, there were seven teams in each Division, each team playing once against each of the other six teams in the same section. The two bottom teams in each Division went down to the lower Division, from which the two top teams moved up. Play for the Arnold Cup is knock-out.

The Annual County Congress will be held in May at Tunbridge Wells, and will include the usual open events and the final of the Arnold Cup. Perhaps the most interesting feature is the match between "Kentish Men" and "Men of Kent," of about fifty players a side, drawn from those taking part in the Congress. The dividing line is roughly East and West of the Medway.

All the teams entering for the League competition have been invited to enter for the *Daily Graphic* contest. Arrangements

are also being made for a number of Inter-Club matches between Kent Bridge Clubs.

## Leicestershire

A circle for Duplicate players was formed in Leicester in March, 1933. In those days it was called the "British Bridge League Leicester Branch." Five tables were arranged, with Mr. E. L. Hague of Birmingham present to initiate us into the mysteries of Duplicate Pairs. After this try-out Mrs. Cole was asked to be Local Honorary Secretary, and in a short time 75 members were enrolled.

As there was no Bridge Club in Leicester at that time, members kindly offered the hospitality of their homes for matches and competitions, until a room was obtained at the Grand Hotel. The first match was against Birmingham, twenty-four a side, on June 12th, 1933, at Kibworth House, by kind invitation of Mrs. Evans. Leicester won by 1,910 points. From then until 1940 we played regular matches against neighbouring towns, and on one occasion eight players toured Devon for a week.

The greatest interest was aroused when London experts came to Leicester, and we had the privilege of playing against teams captained by R. Lederer, H. St. J. Ingram, Hubert Phillips, A. Wolfers, Dr. Paul Stern and Capt. Ewart Kempson, while the England v. Wales match took place here in 1939, three members of the Circle providing the funds for hospitality.

During the war Duplicate was dormant, but was revived last year in spite of accommodation difficulties. Play took place under primitive conditions until excellent



accommodation was secured at the Leicester Squash Club, and the Circle is now looking forward to the resumption of matches with old friends.

Last month we suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. Hurwich, an International player whose happy and delightful personality as doctor, bridge player and friend endeared him to all.

## Warwickshire

The Warwickshire Contract Bridge Association has now revived its activities, and it is hoped that the coming season will see all the pre-war competitions played once more.

Mr. E. Reeve has been elected Chairman, Miss M. Osborne, Hon. Secretary, and Miss G. Pepper, Hon. Treasurer. Membership at present is approximately 100, which number it is hoped materially to increase. About 12 clubs are affiliated.

A number of team competitions are being organised, including the Greenwood Cup—for ladies teams-of four, the Warwickshire Championships—for duplicate teams of four, and the Midland Circle Cup—for duplicate teams of four. In addition, a duplicate pairs contest is to be held each month, and open pairs contests are being organised in various parts of the county. A league is being formed in which it is hoped all affiliated clubs will participate.

The Association is also anxious to resume county matches, and Hon. Secretaries of other Associations are invited to get in touch with Miss Osborne, 2 Park Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13, in regard to these.

## HOW GOOD ARE YOU? SOLUTIONS

### Hand 3

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

If East discards ♦ 3, declarer trumps dummy's ♦ 5 and ♦ 7 becomes good. If he throws ♥ 3, dummy's top Hearts are made, ♦ 5 is trumped, and ♥ J wins the 12th trick.

An example of a rare type of squeeze, technically known as the Criss-Cross (Backwards) Squeeze.

### Hand 4

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

Another example of the Criss-Cross (Backwards) Squeeze, rarer still in No-Trumps play. If East throws ♠ J, dummy's ♠ A is made, declarer enters his hand with ♦ A, and ♠ Q is good. If East discards ♦ 8, South cashes ♦ A and dummy's ♦ J is good.

# First Thoughts

by Iain Macleod



**L**AST month I wrote for you some suggestions on opening bids of one of a suit. The article was designed to steer a near beginner out of trouble and to ensure a reasonable standard for your openings. This month I shall discuss no-trump bidding and also responses to the suit bid of one. Remember we use the Milton work Count (Ace = 4, King = 3, Queen = 2, Jack = 1) and remember again that for you these articles and only these articles are Holy Script.

No-trump bidding is by far the easiest part of contract. It is the branch of the game that can most easily be taught by Rule of Thumb methods. It is, in fact, a piece of cake. To make 3 NT you need a combined count of twenty-six (experts say 25 but I suggest you only shade to 25 if you have a five card suit). To open one no-trump you should have between 16 and 18 points with at least three suits guarded and not less than 10 x x in the fourth. Vulnerability doesn't enter into it.

The rules are simple :

## BID

One no-trump on 16 to 18.

Two no-trump on 21 to 22.

Three no-trump on 23.

## RAISE

One no-trump to two on 8 or 9.

One no-trump to three on 10 or over.

Two no-trump to three on 4.

Rebid over a raise to two no-trumps on 17 or 18.

Shade all raises by one point for a five card suit, (e.g. raise one no-trump to three on : ♠ x x x ♥ A x x ♦ x x ♣ K Q x x x, but to two only on : ♠ x x x ♥ A x x ♦ x x x ♣ K Q x x

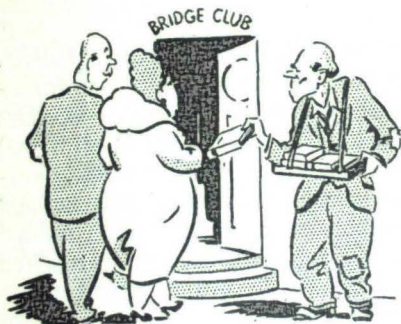
If your five card suit is a major you should force in that suit to give your partner a choice of contract. With a six card minor suit headed by one of the two top honours you should raise on two points less than shown, (e.g., one to three no-trumps on : ♠ x x ♥ K x x ♦ J x ♣ A x x x x x). If the combined count shows at least 34 points raise directly to six no-trumps (e.g., On : ♠ A x x ♥ K x x ♦ K Q x x ♣ J x x raise two no-trumps to six. Never issue a partial invitation with 4 NT).

The question of responding to a suit bid of one is not so simple. Many books have been written extolling various methods of ascertaining if a game is held between the two hands. None are satisfactory. The truth is that experts do not use such methods. They may say they do (because expert bridge players are often authors as well and have to sell their books) but they don't. In this part of



contract, rules are at best a makeshift substitute for knowledge. But rules at our stage are necessary and so I summarise the lines of thought you should follow.

1. A response of 1 NT shows (for you) 6 to 9 points and a balanced hand. Partner may pass.
2. A simple raise shows a fit with partner and no other biddable suit. With four trumps you should have 5 points, with five trumps three. Partner may pass.
3. A double raise (1 ♣—3 ♣ or 1 ♥—3 ♥) is about twice as good as the last hand. With four trumps you should have 10 points, with five trumps seven. Count a singleton in a



side suit as two points. Partner may only pass on a minimum.

4. The direct raise to game is about two points better than the double raise.
5. A one over one response even at the two level (1 ♣—1 ♥ or 1 ♥—2 ♦) is unconditionally forcing for one round. It may mean a hand which is nearly good enough for a forcing to game bid or it may

mean a fairly weak hand. You should have a minimum count of seven. The suit you bid should not be weaker than K 10 x x, but the greater your support for partner, the weaker may be your own bid suit. Each change of suit is forcing for one round but as soon as no-trumps are bid or a suit already called is rebid, the partner may pass unless a forcing to game bid has been made. That is rather complicated, so let's stick down a few examples. In these cases you (as responder) may pass:

Ex. 1. 1 ♠—2 ♥  
2 ♠—?

Ex. 2. 1 ♠—2 ♥  
2 NT—?

Ex. 3. 1 ♠—2 ♥  
3 ♥—?

Ex. 4. 1 ♠—2 ♥  
3 ♣—3 ♦  
3 ♠—?

although in the last three examples you should only pass with a very weak hand.

In these you may not:

Ex. 1. 1 ♠—2 ♥  
3 ♣—?

Ex. 2. 1 ♠—2 ♥  
4 ♣—?

Ex. 3. 1 ♠—2 ♣  
3 ♥—3 ♠  
4 ♣—?

It isn't always easy to decide when you should make a forcing bid (one more than necessary in another suit *i.e.*, 1 ♠—3 ♣) which compels partner to keep bidding to game. When in doubt you should force, but only do it on overwhelming strength unless you have either a fit in partner's suit or a solid suit of your own. To give

(Continued on page 37)

# Around the Competitions

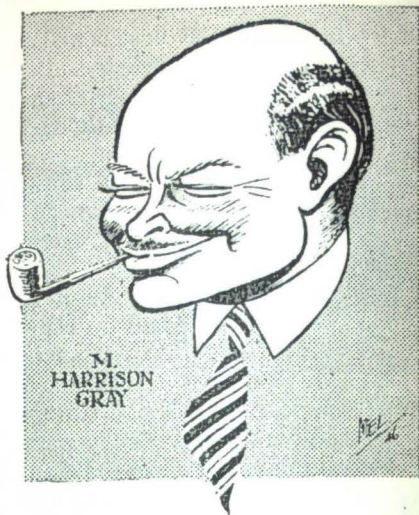
by M. Harrison-Gray

**C**HIEF interest this month will centre round the England v. Wales Camrose Trophy match at Cardiff, postponed until October 19th—20th. This match will decide the fate of the Cup, for the positions of the various countries are now as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
England	2	2	0	4
Wales	2	2	0	4
Northern Ireland	3	1	2	2
Scotland	3	1	2	2
Eire	2	0	2	0

The England team is a powerful one, with its personnel drawn from three of the most successful London teams, but Wales will be fortified by the memory of their sensational victory over England in the 1939 series. It may well be the old story of an early English lead whittled down by some inspired play by the Welshmen, but the Londoners should be tough enough to stand the strain, severe though it will be. It should be an epic match. A full report will appear in the November issue.

The final of the Pachabo Cup (E.B.U. Inter-County Championship) is to be held at the Bexhill Congress, and will consist of 16 teams, five of them coming from London. First London teams to reach the final are Mrs. Madeline Lester's, who got home against Mrs. P. Williams by 190 points



after an exciting match, and Dr. Joe Whitby's, who carried too many guns for the very promising Della Porta—Hammond combination.

The Whitelaw Cup (E.B.U. Ladies' Teams of Four Championship) provided some first-class sensations. Mrs. Kastell (Harrow) and Mrs. Williams scored overwhelming victories against fancied London teams, and Mrs. Crisford (Warwickshire), who once reached the final of the Gold Cup, won her match by the fantastic margin of 7,610 points. Miss Kleuser (Nottingham) also won convincingly against a good team, and her quartette have a fine chance of adding to their many laurels in women's events.

Duplicate Pairs contests are booming everywhere. Each Monday night the Lyndhurst Club attracts the biggest galaxy of stars seen in London since the pre-war Upper Berkeley Street days of Lederer's. Crockford's resumed its monthly series on September 29th with a 19 table entry, and a really high



standard is set at regular contests at the Hamilton, Lederer's, the Jacob Ehrlich Society, and the Park Lane Club. The entries for the national competitions during the coming season should beat all records.

*First Thoughts.*

(continued from page 35)

Example 1: ♠ A K Q x x x  
♥ x x ♦ A Q x ♣ x x (Bid 2 ♠)

Example 2: ♠ x x ♥ K Q J x  
♦ K x ♣ A Q x x x (Bid 3 ♣)

Example 3: ♠ A K J x ♥ x x  
♦ A K x x ♣ K x x (Bid 2 ♠)

but not on

♠ A K x ♥ x x' ♦ A x x x  
♣ K x x x on which the best bid is 3 NT.

We will study the problems of big hands more closely next month. Lastly the response to a suit bid on strong balanced hands:

1. Respond 2 NT on 12—13.
2. Respond 3 NT on 14—16 (over 16 you should usually force).

And one final stern word of warning. If you open a suit (say 1 ♠) and partner responds 2 ♦ no NOT bid 2 NT as a sign off. 2 NT in that position show 16 points, and partner can raise accordingly.

**COMPETITIONS RESULTS  
TO DATE**

**SILVER CUP**

Mr. C. E. Davis' Team beat  
Mr. A. F. Bearn's Team by  
480.

Mr. G. Barton's Team beat Mr.  
F. J. Hobden's Team by 450.

Mr. W. J. Beach's Team beat  
Mr. C. M. Raphael's Team  
by 90.

**PACHABO CUP**

Mrs. M. Lester's Team beat Mrs.  
P. Williams' Team by 190.

Dr. J. Whitby's Team beat Mr.  
A. L. Della Porta's Team by  
1,510.

**WHITELAW CUP**

Mrs. Jarvis' Team beat Mrs.  
Griffiths' Team by 2,020.

Mrs. Kastell's Team beat Mrs.  
Summers' Team by 3,200.

Mrs. Williams' Team beat Mrs.  
Furse's Team by 5,100.

Mrs. Flemmich's Team beat  
Mrs. Symes' Team by 870.

Miss Kleuser's Team beat Mrs.  
Wibberley's Team by 3,500.

Mrs. Bailey's Team beat Mrs.  
Eames' Team by 250.

Mrs. Crisford's Team beat Mrs.  
Calvert's Team by 7,610.

Mrs. Booth's Team beat Mrs.  
Brumpton's Team by 3,280.

**THIS MONTH'S**

**CONUNDRUM ANSWER**

The player's partner dealt at Game and 60 part score. Holding ♠ A 6 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ A Q 5 4 2 ♣ A K 7, he bid Two Clubs, playing that convention. South, whose main concern was to stop his partner bidding Six or Seven No-Trumps, possibly holding the Ace of Spades bare, gave the negative response of Two Diamonds as a first step. In view of the part score, North decided to make a cunning pass. The contract was defeated by two tricks.

As South remarked—his invariable comment, but in this case justified—"Everything happens to me!"

# A Question of Ethics

by Boris Shapiro

I WAS feeling mildly annoyed. I had lost three rubbers in succession against Madame X and it was not easy to lose rubbers against Madame X. I had now however cut against her again, with quite a reasonable partner, and the skill of Madame X's *vis-a-vis* was of doubtful quality. I was sitting South, Madame X East. After the usual agreement on conventions, West dealt, opened one No-Trump, was lifted to three by Madame X, who to my rage put down a 14 count as dummy. 5 No-Trump was duly made (six incidentally being stone cold). The next two hands were uneventful. We made a part score of 60 and conceded a penalty of 50 points.

I now dealt myself the following hand,

♠ x x ♥ A K Q J 10 9 x x ♦ x x  
 ♣ x

and decided to pass. West bid One Spade and my partner passed with a mournful look. Madame X bid Three Hearts! Yes! Three Hearts! I passed quickly and pretended not to notice Madame X's twitch when she realised her misnomer, as she had actually intended to bid Three Clubs. West with a happy smirk lifted Lady X to Four Hearts for reasons best known to himself his hand being:

♠ A Q J x x ♥ x x ♦ A Q x x x  
 ♣ x

My partner again passed, and Madame X whose hand consisted of the following collection:

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

now happily bid 5 Clubs in a very high pitched voice, suggesting as it were to partner that this was really the first time she was bidding and would partner have the intelligence to realise that she had not bid Hearts before, and if she had that she really had not meant to?

I decided the time had come to double.

My friendly opponent West now duly put Madame X back to 5 Hearts, looking rather hurt; had he not already unselfishly supported his partner's Heart suit? And what was she bothering with Clubs for when Hearts was already the agreed suit?

Madame X by this time was desperate, and decided to take refuge in 5 No-Trumps. South again doubled in his usual gentle manner. West went into a trance. He could not make up his mind whether partner's 5 No-Trumps was some sort of delayed Blackwood or the Grand Slam force. He decided to compromise between the two and bid 6 Spades, which my partner promptly doubled. Madame X, now in the greatest state of agitation bid 7 Clubs with an imploring look at her partner. I doubled again, and the wretched West, by this time losing his temper, belligerently bid 7 No-Trumps with a "Double that if you Dare" look on his face.

I doubled very quietly and now at last we come to the question of ethics.

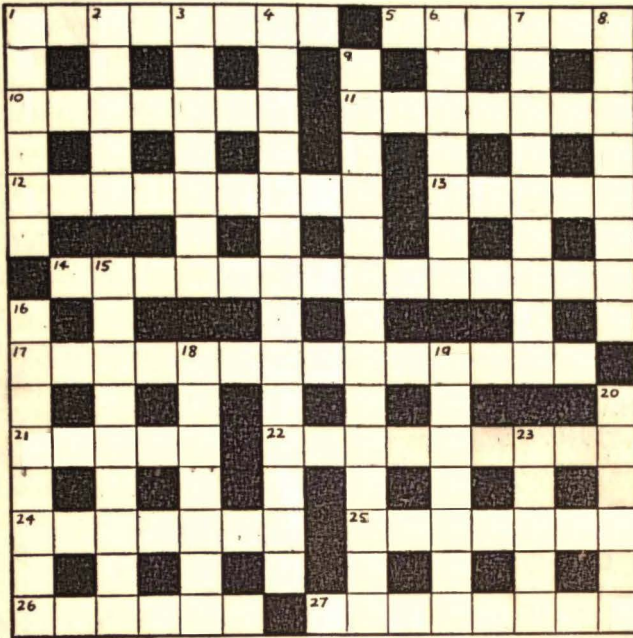
Which Heart should South lead? The Ace or the nine?

(This is known to be a true story.—  
 Ed.).



# THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Devised for the Bridge Player



## CLUES

### ACROSS

1. You may pay these but they won't settle your losses. (8)
5. Deduces. (6)
10. Need not show affection at the card table. (7)
11. Withdrawal. (7)
12. A rash bidder often prefers his contract to be. (9)
13. Violet or marine may follow. (5)
14. When opponents have a certain game, you may. (4, 1, 5, 4)
17. Distinguishing. (14)
21. In a pairs contest, a generally immobile player. (5)
22. Most familiar when dressed. (9)
24. Sincerely flatter. (7)
25. Score for an unplayed board. (7)
26. Bridge trancers are not necessarily devotees of this Eastern cult. (6)
27. Wrong view? No: Just a view. (8)

### DOWN

1. Bridge partners seldom thank you for this attempted liberation. (6)
2. Such a player seldom 'psyches.' (5)
3. Perform. (7)
4. Where Spades and Clubs are bid? (3, 5, 6)
6. Partner can't trump your Ace in such a contract (2, 5)
7. Peepers should suffer from this. (3, 6)
8. Placed. (8)
9. Popular B.B.C. programme. (6, 2, 3, 3)
15. For many Bridge is all this. (9)
16. No one plays with such cards. (8)
18. Warms up. (7)
19. The score sheet sometimes does this with the board. (7)
20. Linguists and liars are. (6)
23. Blunt Major. (5)

See correct solution in next month's issue

# This month's Competition

Set by J. C. H. Marx

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

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

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

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

## PROBLEM No. 1 (25 points)

It can sometimes be said of an auction between weak or uninstructed partners that "there is no such bidding" in the sense that two or more bids by the same player, who is presumed to have confidence in the correctness of his partner's bidding are

mutually inconsistent. In other words, if one bid is right on any given holding at least one other bid must be wrong.

Classify the following auctions as (A) consistent or (B) inconsistent. If the answer is (B), explain briefly wherein lies the inconsistency.

North (a)	1 ♡	2 NT	4 ♡	
South	2 ♡	3 ♡	No	
North (b)	1 ♡	2 ♠	4 ♡	
South	2 ♡	3 ♡	No	
North (c)	1 ♡	3 ♠	4 NT	
South	1 ♠	4 ♠	?	
North (d)	1 ♡	2 ♦	5 ♦	No
South	1 ♠	4 ♦	6 ♦	
North (e)	1 ♡	2 ♦	5 ♣	No
South	1 ♠	4 ♦	6 ♦	
North (f)	1 ♡	2 NT	4 ♡	
South	2 ♦	3 ♡	No	
North (g)	1 ♠	4 ♠		
South	3 NT	5 ♠		
North (h)	1 ♦	2 ♠	5 ♦	
South	2 ♦	3 ♦	No	
North (i)	1 ♦	2 ♡	3 NT	
South	1 ♠	2 ♠	No	
North (j)	1 ♦	2 ♡	4 ♠	
South	1 ♠	2 ♠	No	

## PROBLEM No. 2 (20 points)

South holds:—♠ K J 5 ♡ 9 7 6  
♦ A 4 2 ♣ 10 7 5 3. North deals and opens with One Heart. East and West do not bid. South responds One No-Trump.

What should South bid next if North rebids to (a) Two Hearts (b) Two Spades (c) Two Diamonds (d) Two Clubs.



PROBLEM No. 3 (15 points)

North holds:—♠ A K 8 6 5  
♥ Q 9 4 3 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ 7. North-South are using the Approach Forcing System and the Blackwood Convention. The bidding has proceeded, with East-West silent:

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♠	4 ♣
?	

What should North bid now ?

PROBLEM No. 4 (15 points)

Score North - South Game ; dealer South. North holds:—  
♠ K J 8 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ A K J 3 2.

The bidding has proceeded:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	NB	2 ♣	2 ♥
NB	NB	?	

What should North bid now ?

PROBLEM No. 5 (10 points)

The hands of North and South are respectively:

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

South is playing the hand in Six Clubs, East and West having taken no part in the auction. West leads the Heart Jack, East playing the 5. South leads Ace and the 4 of Spades, ruffing in dummy with the Club 6 ; East and West play low cards to both tricks.

What card should South now lead from dummy ? Why ?

PROBLEM No. 6 (15 points)

The hands of North and South are respectively:—

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

South is playing the hand in Four Spades, East and West having taken no part in the auction. West leads the King, followed by the Queen of Clubs, on which East plays the 7 and 2. West then leads the Club 5, East plays the Ace and South ruffs. The next two tricks are won by the King and Ace of Spades, East and West both following suit.

What cards should North and South play to the next trick ? Why ?

HEARD AT THE BRIDGE TABLE  
BLACKWOOD IN REVERSE

The following hands were recently dealt at a well-known London Club:

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

Bidding:

NORTH:	1 ♥	5 ♦	6 ♠
SOUTH:	4 NT	5 ♠	7 ♥

This contract failed by two tricks. Explanation given by South for his bid of Five Spades: "Playing Blackwood, I had to show you my three Aces."

# ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October—November

North Western C.B.A. Congress—Blackpool .. Oct. 25th—27th

Closing date for entries for :

The <i>Daily Graphic</i> Contest .. .. .	..	28th
The Gold Cup (B.B.L. Championship for Teams of Four) .. .. .	..	..
Crockford's Cup (E.B.U. Championship for Teams of Four) .. .. .	..	..
National Individual Championship (E.B.U.) ..	..	..
Affiliated Clubs Cup (for Teams of Four from Clubs affiliated to the E.B.U. .. .. .	..	..
Inter-County League (E.B.U. Championship for representative County Teams of Eight) ..	..	..

Devon C.B.A. Congress—Torquay .. ..	Nov.	8th—10th
E.B.U. International Selection Trials—Leeds ..	..	9th—10th
Yorkshire C.B.A. Congress ( <i>Yorkshire Evening News</i> )—Harrogate .. .. .	..	15th—18th
England v. Eire (Camrose Trophy) .. .. .	..	23rd—24th

Closing date for entries for :

The Lady Milne Cup (B.B.L. Championship for Ladies' Teams of Four) .. .. .	..	25th
The Hubert Phillips Bowl (B.B.L. Championship for Mixed Teams of Four) .. .. .	..	..
National Pairs Championship (E.B.U.) .. ..	..	..
The Harewood Trophies (Open event for Pairs)	..	..

E.B.U. Congress—Bexhill .. .. .	Nov.	29th—
		Dec. 2nd
Tunbridge Wells Tournament (T.B.A.) .. ..	Dec.	13th - 16th

# BRIDGE INDEX

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# ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

## Autumn Congress

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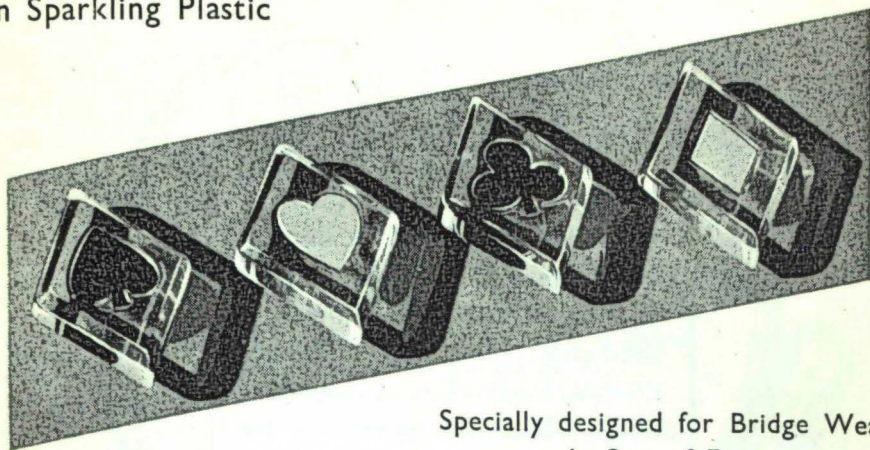
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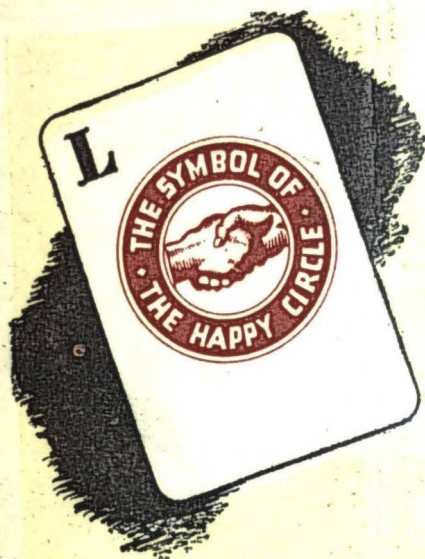
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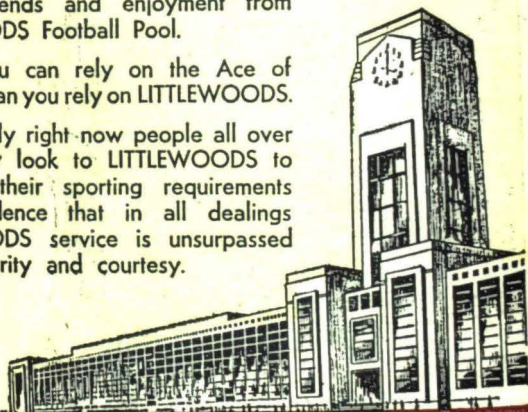


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