

AUCKLAND BRIDGE CLUB ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Bulletin

No. 12

MAY, 1964

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN 1963 LAWS

Extracts from articles by **ALVIN LANDY**
Executive Secretary, American Contract Bridge League

Here are, in brief, some of the principal changes in both the rubber and duplicate laws:

LEAD OUT OF TURN. A fourth penalty choice has been added to declarer's three previous options: 1. Treat the lead as a penalty card. 2. Accept the lead out of turn by following to the trick from declarer's own hand first and letting the lead run up to dummy. 3. Bar the lead of the suit. The new penalty: 4. **Require the lead of the suit by the proper leader.**

This corrects the situation like the following—

Leader	Offender
♠ A 10 8 7 5	♠ Q J 9 2
Declarer	
♠ K 4 3	

East-West have bid spades and West's normal lead might be the spade Ace. But East leads the spade Queen out of turn. Obviously, letting the lead stand or barring the lead are not in declarer's interests. But if he treats the lead as a penalty card, West is certainly not going to lead a spade, knowing from partner's illegal lead that declarer holds the King.

PENALTY CARD. Whenever a defender has or obtains the lead while his partner has a penalty card, declarer may require him to lead the suit of the penalty card or prohibit him from leading that suit for as long as he retains the lead. If declarer exercises this option, the penalty card may be picked up. If declarer does not exercise this option, the defender may lead any card; but the penalty card remains a penalty card. The defender may not lead until declarer has indicated his choice.

CONTINUING PENALTY. Under the old laws, a player might escape the prohibition against leading a suit if he could hold the lead by playing a winning card. Under the new law, if a lead has been forbidden, the prohibition continues as long as the same defender retains the lead.

UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION BY CHANGE OF CALL. When a player names a denomination not selected as his final call at that turn (as in making or correcting an illegal call) and he becomes a defender, declarer may invoke a lead penalty on offender's partner.

Example: A player makes an insufficient bid of two diamonds; corrects it by bidding two spades or three clubs; should opponents later buy the hand, declarer can bar the offender's partner from leading a spade (or a club, if that is the suit) at his first opportunity.

CHANGES IN DUPLICATE LAWS

PART IV: GENERAL LAWS GOVERNING IRREGULARITIES

9—Procedure following an Irregularity

Includes an important change with the statement "Summoning the Director does not waive or forfeit any rights to which a player might otherwise be entitled." Previously, when a defender drew attention to declarer's lead out of turn, it was equivalent to requiring its retraction. Now, the defenders have the same rights as declarer when there is a lead out of turn; that is, after the Director has stated the options, either defender, independently, may accept the lead out of turn or require its retraction.

10—Assessment of a Penalty

No change, but see Law 11.

(Continued bottom column 1, page 2)

GETTING THE COUNT

By P. H. JONES, Taupo

(Specially written for the A.B.C. Bulletin)

Many players are under the impression that it matters little what they discard from a Yarborough like this against no-trumps:

♠ 5 4 3
♥ 3 2
♦ 5 4 3 2
♣ 5 4 3 2

Some believe it more important to show a "feature" than to indicate distribution. That

11 — Cancellation of the Right to Penalize

The right to penalize an irregularity may be forfeited if a member of the non-offending side takes any action before summoning the Director. It is definitely forfeited if he **calls** (Law 34) or **plays** (Law 60) after an irregularity committed by the opponent at his right, and before a legal penalty has been explained and imposed.

Consultation between partners regarding the imposition of a penalty is not permitted, and if the Director considers that such consultation has occurred, he should cancel the right to penalize.

Even after the right to penalize has been forfeited under this law, the Director may assess a disciplinary penalty or may assign an adjusted score under his exercise of discretionary powers.

16 — Unauthorised Information

The old laws gave the Director only very general guidance in cases where unauthorised information was obtained about a board being played or yet to be played, as for example looking at the wrong hand, an improper remark or gesture by partner, over-hearing calls or remarks at another table.

The new laws are much more explicit and name various options for the guidance of the Director in determining whether or not the unauthorised information was of sufficient importance to interfere with normal play.

— A.C.B.L. Bulletin, May-June, 1963

AN A.C.B.L. PUBLICATION

Alvin Landy's complete summary of all the changes put into effect by the new Laws of Duplicate Bridge can be ordered from H. E. Fenton. 2/- per copy, post free. Delivery approximately eight weeks.

is not always so; in defending against slams showing features may be less important than showing distribution. In the hand above correct discarding enabled defenders to defeat a slam.

You have acquired the habit of giving correct discards if you play the 3 from each of the above suits. As recorded in "The Bridge World" of January, 1962, Ogust and Fishbein failed to defeat a vulnerable spade slam by one wrong signal. When West led the King of hearts in this distribution —

6
A K Q J 8 4 3 9 7 5 2
10

East played the 7. This "completely fooled West, who then gave declarer a ruff and sluff".

In another case A. Moyses said he wouldn't name the experts and couldn't find words strong enough to do justice to the play where the club suit was distributed in three no-trumps **redoubled** —

9 8 7 2
— Q J 10 5 4 3
A K 6

When dummy led the 2, East played the 3 and declarer the 6, "a manoeuvre that turned out rather well" for an overtrick redoubled! How clever to lead the 2 and not the 9 which would have induced East to cover with third-best.

Another example comes from the issue of December, 1961. In the first World Par Contest, Rosler won a defensive par by noting his partner play high-low with four. Though holding five small trumps and a void he twice refused to ruff top diamonds until he could leave his partner with a winner. That same issue outlined a deal in the 1961 International Trials where Van der Porten was the only one to make a four spade vulnerable contract against a club lead. West holding two points gave his partner a false count by not playing high-low with an **even number** of diamonds, this inducing East to work on the false premiss that South must have five. The hand —

North
♠ K 9 5 3
♥ Q 9 7 6 3
♦ 7
♣ A 7 3

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

In the mid-game when East covered the heart Queen the defence faded.

Perhaps it can be laid down as an axiom that the poorer the hand the more important it is to indicate distribution and not to encourage continuation or demand a switch. A close study of the discarding practices of the experts shows that they draw conclusions from low cards played to every trick. Roth and Stone, in one of their series "What do you play?" (March, 1961, issue of "Bridge World"), quoted the case where East held 7 5 2 in diamonds and 6 4 2 in clubs against a contract of six no-trumps. It was suggested by some solvers that West (who was having trouble with his discards) should play East for four diamonds to the 8. "Sorry, but this play is out. It was carefully stipulated that East played the diamond deuce on the first lead of the suit. So he can't have four diamonds; failure to start a high-low would be **inexcusable**."

But even experts go astray, for the May issue reported a player as saying, "Who would high-low with this holding, 8 x x x?" The answer came: "An alert East **must** try to help his partner, especially when marked with a Yarborough. We stand flatly, unpromisingly, on our statement, in the first review of this problem, that East cannot have four diamonds; failure to start a high-low would be **inexcusable**."

A slam hand reported by Harrison-Gray in "Bridge Magazine" shows the effect of third-best discards:

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

South	
♠	K Q 10 8 5
♥	J 6
♦	A K 8 4
♣	A 4

Dummy won West's heart King, South playing the Knave and East the 3. When West won the first trump trick with the Ace he just couldn't decide, even though he sought inspiration from the ceiling, whether declarer had another heart. East had not helped by playing the 3; had he played third-best, the 5, he would have informed his partner that seven hearts were outstanding (5 from 12 leaves 7). As West could see only six of these (counting South's false Knave), he would know **for certain** that declarer had false-carded.

The interesting feature about following with third-best is that it works in reverse; either defender can often give the other a count on any side suit of three cards (or longer). It is also of universal application, that is, the count can be given on any side suit led by either declarer or dummy. For example, when dummy leads the 2 of spades in this distribution—

A 8 5	K 10 2	J 9 6 3
Q		

East should play the 6 and not the 3, to show six higher cards outstanding (6 from 12 leaves 6). West sees five of these and knows declarer has either the Knave, 9 or 7.

Correct discarding gains far more than it loses because declarer is not the one who needs most information.

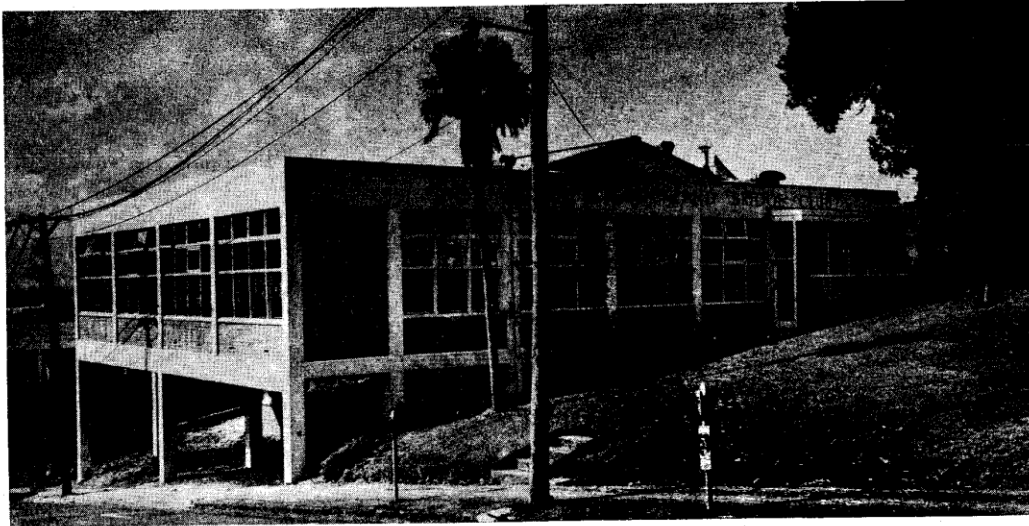
OTAGO CLUB LOSS

MRS G. I. BLACK

Bridge in the south has suffered a severe loss through the passing of Mrs Dora Black of the Otago Bridge Club. In addition to acting as treasurer for a number of years, until her sudden illness, Mrs Black had been a member of the tournament committee for many years, and was in charge of women's duplicate. Regarded as Otago's top woman player, Mrs Black, with her partner Mr G. B. P. Wilson, had the distinction of winning the Club pairs championship in 1963 for the 21st consecutive time.

AUCKLAND BRIDGE CLUB (Est. 1931)

LAST FIVE YEARS' GROWTH



	1958	1963
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	356	736
ATTENDANCE	17,250	32,020
CUPS AND TROPHIES	19	23
VALUE OF PRIZES	£232	£350
NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS		
Weekly	5	7
Total for Year	220	300
PLAYING AREA		
Main Room	1200 sq. ft.	2850 sq. ft.
Rubber Bridge Room No. 1		842 sq. ft.
Rubber Bridge Room No. 2		765 sq. ft.
(With sliding doors open can be used as one room for tournaments)		
TOTAL TOURNAMENT AREA		4,457 sq. ft.
CAPACITY		
Minimum number of tables	23	69
Maximum number of tables		86
INCOME		
Table Money	£2,057	£4,066
Classes	£60	£256
Total	£3,196	£7,098
VALUE OF BUILDING AND FURNISHING		£41,700
MEMBERS' DEBENTURES		£21,000

Changes made at the Annual Meeting have resulted in a decision by the new committee to discontinue publication of the Bulletin as from this issue.



PHOTO TAKEN AT THE 52 TABLE BIRTHDAY TOURNAMENT

INTER-CLUB BIDDING MATCH

BUITENHOF CLUB (HOLLAND) VERSUS AUCKLAND BRIDGE CLUB

Report by L. M. McKILLOP

In August last year the Buitenhof Club, of The Hague, Holland, having received from us copies of the Bulletin, in reply suggested that a bidding match be held between the two Clubs.

The Auckland Club agreed and appointed Harold Fenton to organize it from our end. I was asked to set the hands for Auckland. Dr J. Kroes did the job for Buitenhof and after correspondence to and fro a plan was agreed as follows:

Twenty hands to be set, ten by Buitenhof and ten by Auckland. Points to be awarded for the best and other contracts with 100 as top score for each hand. The hands were composed, and exchanged, and the match eventually was held at the end of November.

The result was a win for Buitenhof, who fielded 13 pairs, who obtained an average of 1229 out of a possible 2000. Auckland fielded 11 pairs who scored an average of 1108.

Bilkert and Versluis (playing Culbertson!)

were the top pair with 1530 points. Second and third places also went to Holland, and then came the best Auckland performance by W. Lindermann and K. Braithwaite, with 1390 points. Of the Holland team nine pairs played Acol with personal additions; mainly on account of this, Acol playing pairs filled ten of the top 14 places.

Now for the hands. It was pointless to set straightforward hands that everyone would bid automatically, so I tried to introduce some element of difficulty. We then assessed what we thought was the best contract and awarded it 100 points. Just how the bidders were to get to it we did not always consider. On further study I find that in some cases it is quite difficult even seeing both hands to construct a reasonable sequence to get to the best contract. Considering this I think the 1530 scored by the top pair was an excellent effort and the general standard throughout very good. Messrs Lindermann and Braith-

waite did well to score the full 100 points on eleven of the twenty hands.

A short discussion of some selected hands follows. Readers might find it interesting to try themselves on them before looking at the awards. Hands 1 to 10 were set by Auckland; hands 11 to 20 by Buitenhof. Assume I.M.P. scoring.

HAND 1 East dealer — love all

West		East	
♠ 9	♠ A K 8 3	♥ 6	♥ 6
♥ Q J 7 5	♥ 6	♦ K 9 5	♦ K 9 5
♦ A Q J 6	♦ K 9 5	♣ A Q 9 8 3	♣ A Q 9 8 3
♣ K J 7 6	♣ A Q 9 8 3		

Awards: 6 Clubs	100
6 Diamonds	40
3 NT	40
5 Clubs	40
5 Diamonds	20

East will doubtless open one club. West can respond one diamond or one heart.

In this case one diamond makes it easier for East and the sequence might go one club — one diamond — one spade — three clubs, from which the slam in clubs is not difficult. If West responds one heart, a no-trump contract may look best to East.

Four Auckland pairs reach six clubs; five pairs finished in no-trump contracts ranging from three to six!

HAND 3 East dealer — E/W vul.

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

Awards: Part score Diamonds or Clubs	100
2 NT	40
5 Clubs or 5 Diamonds	30

The idea here is to see if West can restrain himself from bidding the game which isn't there. This was apparently too difficult since only one Auckland pair managed to stop in a minor part score. The theory opening bid + opening bid = game, usually sound, does not always hold.

After the sequence one diamond — two clubs — two diamonds, West is in a quandary. Three clubs would be regarded by most as a gross underbid. Three hearts is a little too fancy, two no-trumps or three no-trumps

a wild gamble, and four clubs?? Perhaps three diamonds offers the correct degree of encouragement. In this case it would be right since East would then pass. However, I have an uneasy feeling that this was a really tough one and that present methods would land most of us in game.

HAND 4 East dealer — South overcalls one or two spades

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

Awards: 3 NT	100
3 or 4 Clubs	60
5 Clubs	30

The problem here is to find out whether the spades are stopped. One answer is the use of the English "directional asking bid" described by T. Reese in his latest book, "Develop Your Bidding Judgment". This bid is made by bidding the opponent's suit, showing a semi-stopper or doubtful stopper (Jxx or Qxx, say). This invites partner to bid no-trump. In this case if used by West, East with Q 4 can accept the invitation. So the bidding might go one club — one spade — two spades — two no-trump — three no-trump.

Alternatively, if East is playing a brand of no-trump allowing him to open one no-trump, West could go to three no-trump. Many pairs would probably find this hand difficult, or maybe impossible, but this situation does occur and the hand was included to draw attention to the problem.

Four Auckland pairs gained full points here.

HAND 5 North opens one spade — N/S vul.

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

Awards: 4 Hearts	100
3 Hearts	70
2 Hearts	30
2 Diamonds	20

What to do with the East hand? There isn't any satisfactory bid. However, once East has decided what to do, the partnership should undoubtedly finish in hearts, and six Auckland pairs managed to get to four hearts.

HAND 7 East dealer — All vul.

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

Awards: 4 Spades 100
 3 Spades 60
 3, 4 or 5 Diamonds 60

This one illustrates one of the favourite themes of A. Moyses, editor of "The Bridge World" (American) — i.e. that a 4-3 trump fit, avoided by many, is often the basis of the only available game. The conditions are:

- (1) The trumps must be high ones;
- (2) there must be a good second suit;
- (3) the short trump suit must take the ruff.

All these apply here. Four spades is cold.

Possible sequences:

One spade — two diamonds — three diamonds — three spades — four spades.

Or —

One diamond — two diamonds — two spades — three spades — four spades.

Those who open five card majors might consider the words of E. Kaplan (of the Kaplan Sheinwold System) in "The Bridge World": "We play five card majors but often treat a strong four-card suit as a five-carder."

Only one Auckland pair reached four spades. Most earned 60 points with a diamond contract.

HAND 9 West dealer — E/W vul.

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

Awards: 4 or 5 Spades 100
 5 Diamonds 100
 6 Spades or
 6 Diamonds 30

The point of this one is to illustrate the uselessness of Blackwood or "Four Clubs" in hands of this nature.

If at some stage either player cue bids hearts his partner becomes aware of duplication and lack of club control. (Normally controls in ranking suits are shown first.)

Alternatively, the old Culbertson asking bids would quickly reveal the club position.

Five Auckland pairs succeeded here, either scientifically or maybe because they were suspicious of the whole thing.

HAND 13 West dealer — E/W vul.

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

If West opens, North overcalls in hearts.

Awards: 5 Spades 100
 4 Spades 80

The theme is similar to Hand 9, but this time natural bidding can do the job.

Dr Kroes suggests:

1 ♠	1 ♠
3 ♦	3 ♠
5 ♠	Pass

The five spades bid obviously invites partner to bid the slam if he has control in hearts.

Six Auckland pairs earned full marks here.

HAND 17 West dealer — E/W vul.

West	East
♠ 5 4 2	♠ A Q J
♥ A K 8 2	♥ J 4 3
♦ A J 4 3 2	♦ Q 5
♣ 8	♣ A K Q 4 2

Awards: 3 NT 100
 4 NT 90
 5 NT 40
 6 NT 30
 5 Clubs or Diamonds 70
 4 Hearts 70

The problem again is to stay out of a slam. This proved too much for nine of the eleven Auckland pairs, most of whom settled for 6 NT. With West opening the bidding, it is tempting for East with 19 points to bid the slam. In fact I still can't think of a bidding sequence that would stop me from bidding it if I were East.

CONCLUDING NOTE: The contest was an interesting one, and one or two points arise from it. It seems to me that no matter how much bidding improves there will always be a limitation of knowledge and perfection is impossible. What a difference the ten of diamonds in West's hand would make in Hand 17. It appears now that some of the hands contained features that no bidding system could be expected to disclose.

However, on the other hand there are many problems in bidding, some of which occurred in this match, which are difficult but not impossible to solve. These are the ones that invite further discussion and study.

LADY LUCK

As a change from more serious reading, and what more serious reading can a bridge player have than all too numerous text books that have all correct solutions once all hands are exposed, I found myself browsing through my weekly horoscope. With the stars in my favour I found that I was entering the phase where I was to have an entertaining and delightful week. I was to seek gay company where tension would relax and most important this was to be a money making period.

With such omens how could one not go to the bridge room where contracts may prove unusually beneficial and unexpected events may improve one's affairs?

Having cut the Ace of spades by taking the fifth card from the end I was able to take my favourite chair and naturally chose the green pack as that was the predominant colour for the week, according to my Astrologer.

"I am not taking any part in this 'Lady Luck' business," came the inevitable voice of conscience. Naturally I couldn't expect George with his serious nature and infinite learning to believe that Dame Fortune can smile in the cards and make the obvious seem easy.

A contract of four hearts was reached on the following bidding:

North	East	South	West
No bid	No bid	1 ♥	2 ♣
2 ♥	No bid	3 ♥	No bid
4 ♥	No bid	No bid	No bid

Lead 8 of spades.

North
♠ A K
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ J 8 5 4
♣ 8 7 6

South
♠ Q 3 2
♥ A Q 6 4 3
♦ K 6
♣ A Q 5

The first trick was taken in dummy and the heart finesse lost to the King in West's hand. The 5 of spades was returned and a further heart cleared trumps, West playing the Jack and East the 10. Next I finessed the clubs, which lost to the King with West, and the Jack of clubs removed my Ace. The

Queen of spades was led for a club discard in dummy and a club trumped in dummy. A diamond had revealed the Ace and Queen of diamonds in West's hand and I was one light (one heart, one club and two diamonds).

The full hands being:

Hand 1

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

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

Naturally I felt a little cheated that two finesses as well as the A-Q lying over the King of diamonds were not exactly my fault.

A few deals later I was once again in a contract of four hearts:

North
♠ A 7 5
♥ A K 5
♦ Q J 5 3
♣ 7 6 3

South
♠ 9 4
♥ Q J 8 6 3
♦ A 10 6
♣ A 9 4

This one was too easy as I had only to establish three diamond tricks to make my contract. The Ace of clubs took the first trick and three rounds of hearts cleared trumps, finishing in dummy with the Ace. The Queen of diamonds from dummy was finessed and West won with the King to lead the King of spades, which was taken in dummy; a small diamond to my Ace found West discarding a spade. Now in my misery I was unable to establish diamonds to get the necessary discard and had to settle for one down — a spade, diamond, and two clubs.

The full dealing being:
Hand 2

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

By now I was beginning to doubt whether I had read the correct week with a 5-1 break in diamonds and a singleton King, and my visions of a "money making period" had vanished.

"Serves you right," George's voice whispered later while I was commiserating with myself. "Now take hand one," and I knew that I was in for a lecture. "At trick 5 you should go across to dummy with a heart and lead a small diamond, putting up the King—West can only then cash the Queen of diamonds leaving the Jack in dummy, or else lead a club to your Ace-Queen. Previous articles in the Bulletin have told you count the hands and West is marked with two spades and two hearts, leaving nine cards in the minor suits. Another variation would be lead the King of diamonds at trick 5."

"Imagine me leading the King of diamonds—" I started to say. But George was not to be denied as now he was in full cry.

"In hand 2 the lead of a small diamond from the dummy, with you playing the 10, would give you three tricks in diamonds even with West and the singleton King. Five heart tricks, three diamond tricks and two Aces ensure your contract. Anyway you should know that all this fancy business about horoscopes, superstitions and luck are not substitutes for proper play."

Well, following that little tirade I didn't tell George that I had sneaked back to the horoscope and found the reason why bridge is not played in December and January as this is the period of the Sign of Capricorn (The Goat).

— George's Master

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NEW ZEALAND PAIRS

1. J. R. Wignall and F. S. Lu (Christchurch).
2. Mrs H. O. Taylor and B. C. Bell (Auckland).
3. R. R. Hudson and G. B. P. Wilson (Dunedin).

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL PAIRS

1. Mesdames J. Holder and C. Weitzel.
2. J. W. S. Dodd and J. Martin.
3. B. C. Bell and R. Evans.

NORTH ISLAND PAIRS

1. B. C. Bell and Mrs H. O. Taylor
2. Mesdames G. Morris and H. Mills
3. R. Carrick and A. J. Friedlander

NEW ZEALAND PLACINGS IN PAR POINT CONTEST

	Points
1. B. C. Bell and A. Evans (Auckland)	155
2. Dr and Mrs W. J. Hutchison (Wellington)	98
3. G. B. P. Wilson and L. G. Townsend (Dunedin)	76

Messrs Bell and Evans were placed third equal for the world.

PLAY SAFE

DON'T TAKE RISKS!

★

SMOKE

PEZARO'S

CIGARS

or CIGARILLOS

SLAMS ARE HARD TO BID

By J. R. Wignall

Regardless of what the beginners may think, the majority of disasters at the bridge table are not the result of ignorance. In fact in many cases the trouble is that one partner knows too much. Take the following hands:

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

Playing strong two-bids, West decided his limited honour strength justified an opening bid of one heart only. But when his partner responded one spade he decided he could not bid any less than four hearts. After all, he reasoned, partner can go back to spades if he likes, and I hold at least eight winners in my own hand. East considered a while, emerging with a bid of four no-trumps, which by arrangement was Blackwood. Now West prided himself that he knew his Blackwood. He held one ace, so the response should be five diamonds; but he also held a void, so the system allowed him to jump to six diamonds showing specifically one ace and a void in diamonds.

"Partner will realise that I cannot have a suit of diamonds or I would have bid them earlier in the auction. If he doesn't understand he can go back to six hearts, or spades, or even no-trumps. I don't care, I have my bids and something to spare."

Unfortunately East was one of those players who just don't think, and so the final bid of six diamonds was followed by three fast passes. There was a stunned silence, broken only by a sharp crack as West bit through the end of his pipe. When the declarer showed out in the first round of trumps, the defenders were chortling so much they allowed him to escape for three down, but it was not the optimum result in the hand.

Most players were inclined to blame East for this debacle, when their mirth had subsided, but West must bear his share of the blame. He had ignored the cardinal rule of playing with an unfamiliar partner — do not make any ambiguous bids.

Another type of disaster is caused by an apparent mental blockage. There is the case which occurred in the final session of a South

Island tournament some years ago. North-South were leading fairly comfortably, and were playing before a gallery of kibitzers who were bent on seeing bridge at its best. They were soon disappointed. One of the early boards was something like this:

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

South dealt and opened one rather minimum weak no-trump, thus initiating an auction which rushed headlong to a disastrous climax. North bid four no-trumps, which was by agreement Blackwood, and South duly responded five hearts. North pressed on with five no-trumps, and, despite South indicating no Kings, decided on a final contract of seven no-trumps. This did not quite close the matter, for West very firmly doubled, and North very promptly and even more firmly redoubled! The opening lead against this Grand Slam in no-trumps was the King, then the Ace of diamonds. As the horrified kibitzers drifted away, South showed that he, at any rate, had maintained his sense of humour. He loftily informed his partner and the table in general that had the correct opening lead been made the contest was cold — the correct opening lead against a no-trump contract being, of course, as all the text books will tell you, the fourth of your longest suit!

It is not easy to diagnose the mental process which led North to bid such a stupid contract, but my own theory is that as soon as he heard his partner's one no-trump opening bid he regarded his spades as solid. When South subsequently showed two Aces, North must have assumed they were the minor unit Aces, and that there were no losers anywhere. Constant vigilance and fierce concentration is the only remedy against this sort of thing, but any tournament player will tell you it's terribly easy to take your eye off the ball.

A third way of attracting disaster is by assuming that you know better than your partner. Of course, you are generally quite right, but sometimes, very occasionally, wrong. We can leave aside those cases of

masochism where both parties bid against each other furiously, with the odd penalty double intervening, until apoplexy on the seven level is achieved. There are many instances where one partner has all the facts at his disposal, only to be over-ruled by his opposite, who thinks he knows better. You know the sort of thing — "I couldn't leave you in no-trumps, I had a singleton of your suit." Here is another example:

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

Everyone has their own ideas on bidding, but in my opinion East should open fire with two hearts. West responds three clubs, and East tries three diamonds. After West has bid three spades, East shows a red two-suiter with four diamonds, and West returns the compliment by showing a black two-suiter with a bid of four spades. About now East loses patience with the whole thing, realises there is no fit anywhere and puts up the shutters with a bid of six no-trumps. This ought to silence any but the most optimistic West. In point of fact, the three-three break enables thirteen tricks to be made in hearts with six trumps, three diamonds, two clubs, one spade, and one diamond ruffed in dummy. But twelve tricks in no-trumps is the limit.

At one table East chose to regard her heart suit as solid, and, having received a positive response to her forcing opening bid, embarked on a series of asking bids. She finally settled on seven hearts, which as we have seen is cold. West, however, knew better, and converted to seven no-trumps, going down one and receiving the bottom score he deserved. But whatever the result, West's final bid was a very bad case of back-seat driving. East was surely in charge, and knew the strength of her heart suit. Without some

obvious evidence that she had taken leave of her senses, West should not have interfered.

Incidentally, it is a sad commentary on something or other that in a fourteen table duplicate the final contracts were: six no-trumps made twice, six hearts made three times, six clubs made twice, various game contracts made four times, and seven no-trumps one down three times. In other words, only half the pairs reached a make-able slam. As I have tried to show, however, even 50% accuracy at the slam level is very hard to achieve.

Fred Kaplan, during a hectic bridge career, not only told great bridge stories but lived them. There was the time he played in a charity game—as usual, with a strange partner. After three rounds, Kaplan, who had held his temper admirably because his partner had paid a substantial sum to the charity fund for the right to play with him, finally exploded, "Lady," he moaned, "I came here to help heart disease, not to get it."

— McCall's, September, 1963

Someone handed thirteen cards to the great Italian player Giorgio Belladonna and asked him to decide the proper bid.

"Who is my partner?" George asked.

"What's the difference? Suppose it's you."

"Then who are my opponents?" asked Giorgio.

"Two more Belladonnas."

"Take the hand back," said Giorgio solemnly, "I'm not playing. That game is too tough."

— McCall's, September, 1963

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HOW NEW IMP SCALE AFFECTS TEAM TACTICS

The new table is approximately double the old; the wide ranges of the old schedule have been cut in two. There has been some tinkering with the exact points at which categories break, but the chief difference is in the **number** of categories.

The principal effect of this is to discriminate more closely between swings of varying sizes. No longer is 240 the same as 340, or 500 the same as 600 or 700. Another effect is that the boundary between one swing and another has less importance. For example, 490 and 500 are in different categories in both tables; but in the old one, 500 was worth 20% more than 490, while in the new table it is worth only 10% more.

Small Savings De-emphasised.

The low end of the scale shows some significant changes. The tiny swings for an overtrick or for playing in a major instead of a minor are given much less weight. Likewise, swings of 70 - 80 points, 140 - 160 points, 220 - 260 points, are considerably devalued.

Actually, of all the swings from 20 points up to 420 points, only the 50 and 60 point

swings score twice as many IMPs on the new table as on the old. In contrast, more than half the higher swings are doubled (or better) in value on the new table. And even when a large swing is reduced, it loses far less, percentage-wise, than a small one. For example, 1000 - 8 on the old scale is 15, not 16; on the new, a loss of 6%; but 100 - 2 on the old scale is 3, not 4, on the new, a loss of 25%.

Thus, large swings have considerably more weight in the new table than in the old; small swings have less effect on the final result. Compare the swings for 7 no-trumps made at one table, but down at the other, vulnerable, with 2 no-trumps made and down 2320 against 220. In the old scoring, the large swing is 11 IMPs, the small one 4 IMPs, three small swings overbalance the large one. In the new table it is 22 IMPs against 6 IMPs; it takes four small swings to produce the same effect.

Tiny swings, 1 or 2 IMPs on the old table, lost 25% of their weight (that is, the fraction of the total IMPs in play that they produced was 25% smaller). Small swings, 3 or

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4 IMPs on the old table, lost 10% of their effect. Large swings counted for 10% more in the overall result.

Safety Play Restored.

How should all this affect your strategy? The general structure of IMP play remains the same. It is like match-points, not rubber bridge, in the importance of competitive bidding — stealing part-score hands, pushing the opponents to the three level, sacrifice bidding. But it has little of the match-point emphasis on overtricks, or on no-trump versus major, or major versus minor. At this last feature of IMP play is underlined by the new scoring, for the overtrick swings are even less important. Safety plays in game contracts were correct before, but they are mandatory now; in partial contracts they were doubtful before, but they are correct now.

Odds Changed For Game Bid.

The most important change necessitated in bidding style is in stretching for vulnerable game. This was a poor policy under the old scoring, since you would lose 4 points for going down in a game that the enemy did not bid, and gain only 5 points if you made your contract. Vulnerable games used to be nearly an even money bet, but this is no longer true. Now you stand to gain 10 points and lose only 6, so a little more enterprise is called for. It's still not like rubber bridge where you bid any vulnerable game that you approach closely enough to smell, but it's nearly so. If you need a finesse and a 3-2 split to make, you should not bid game at match-point or on the old IMP scoring; it is reasonable to bid game on the new scoring; it is automatic to bid game at rubber bridge.

Remember that none of the above applies to non-vulnerable games. Here the odds are now even worse than before. You risk 5 new IMPs to gain 6, so it surely doesn't pay to stretch.

Is the new table an improvement? In one respect — increasing the number of categories — it surely is, for it eliminates many minor injustices. For example, it will now cost you to double a makeable slam contract which your teammates fail to bid; it didn't cost a thing before. And you will now gain 2 points by doubling a vulnerable game contract which you defeat one trick, while your teammates stop at a partial; before, you would gain nothing at all by the double.

Whether the different weight given to various swings in the scoring represents a

step forward is, obviously, a matter for individual judgment and opinion. Personally, I approve of the devaluation of the overtrick, and I always felt that an extra under-trick was of greater significance. I like the downgrading of 70 and 80 point swings, for these may result from playing a slam in no-trump instead of in a minor suit. The new odds for a vulnerable game and the greater emphasis on big swings accord with my inner feeling of what bridge scoring should be, rather more closely than did the old table. So I vote that it's an improvement all around. What do you think?

—Part of an article by E. KAPLAN (A.C.B.L. Bulletin, December, 1960).

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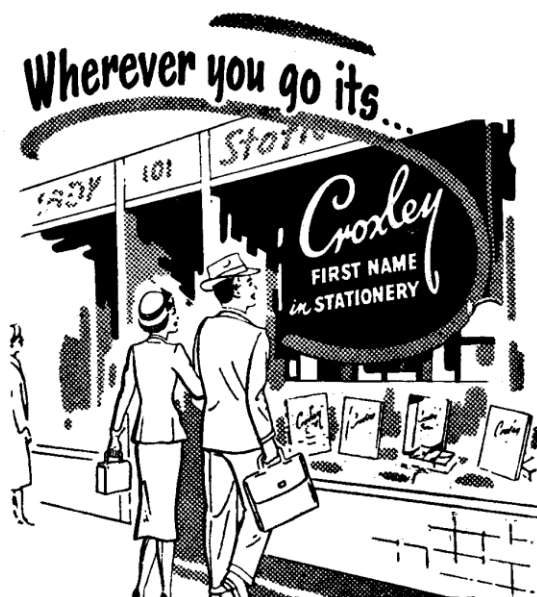
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In Memoriam

Bridge players throughout New Zealand will be saddened to learn of the death in Auckland of John Wesley Stewart Dodd. He passed away suddenly on Wednesday, 13th May. To his widow Irma and two daughters, Judith and Christine, all members of the Club extend their sincere sympathy.

Bill Dodd had a long and distinguished record in competitive bridge. He joined the Auckland Bridge Club about a quarter of a century ago and for 15 years he has filled the post of treasurer in a thorough and conscientious fashion. The pains he took in his work for the Club and his constant attention to detail are reflected in the standing today of the Auckland Bridge Club, which is probably second to none in the Southern Hemisphere. As an acknowledgement of Bill Dodd's service, he was unanimously elected a life member in 1960.

With the death of Dr Bruce MacKenzie in 1950, Bill Dodd became a member of the Auckland team which won the New Zealand

teams' title on five occasions. Twice also, in 1960 and 1963, Bill Dodd won the New Zealand Pairs Championship with John Martin.

He came first for the worlds in 1955 in a bidding championship in which several countries took part, including U.S.A. and Great Britain. In this event also with John Martin, he was one of the four pairs selected to represent New Zealand.

Recently, Bill Dodd's health has been indifferent. Despite this he gallantly played almost to the end, and was always a foeman worthy of the brightest steel. He was runner-up in the 1964 Auckland Provincial Championship in April, rising from his hospital bed to take part. He also flew to Dunedin to play in his last major tourney — the New Zealand Pairs Championship — last month.

Bill Dodd was a modest man with a kind word for everyone, and an infectious sense of humour. He will be sadly missed in the game to which he gave so much.

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