

SUNDAY, OCT. 22, 1950

Blackwood on Bridge—

Four Spades Is Correct Contract

Players Quake Over Game Possibilities

FROM THE number of bids made on this hand it was clear that the North-South players weren't quite sure where it should be played. Game at no trump, hearts or spades were possibilities.

There was also the question as to whether game should be reached at all. South finally decided to gamble it out at four spades—and got an amazingly good result with a little help from East.

West led the kind of hearts, which won. He followed with the queen of hearts and East discarded the trey of clubs. The five of hearts came next and a small club was discarded from dummy.

Here the East player stubbornly refused to ruff. If he had played the jack of spades on this trick it would have taken declarer's king to beat it and then the defenders would have been sure to win two trump tricks later.

Hope Is Revived

BUT EAST discarded another club and South won with the six of hearts. This unexpected good fortune dazed South for a moment. He turned the trick over and stared at the cards again.

It was an odd looking trick—the five and six of hearts and the four and deuce of clubs.

All this with the ace of hearts still out, not to speak of six trumps including queen, jack, 10 and nine.

South shrugged as if to say, "It takes all kinds to make a bridge game." He still wasn't out of the woods but at least he had a chance—and he took full advantage of it.

FIRST, HE cashed the ace of clubs. Then he played the king of spades and led a small spade to the ace. He cashed the two top diamonds, led a third diamond and ruffed it. Now he led a spade and East was in with the queen.

At this point East was stripped of everything but clubs and dummy consisted of the king of clubs and good diamonds.

East was asked (by his partner, of course) why he hadn't ruffed in with the jack of spades at the third trick. East replied that he thought he always had a sure trump trick. Which he did.

Royer Browns Return From Visit to Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Royer K. Brown, 5808 Carrollton Ave., have returned from Dallas where they attended the American Jersey Cattle show.

Mrs. Brown also visited her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Miller, San Antonio. The Millers recently moved to San Antonio from Indianapolis.

Today's Hand

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

5-A 5 2

H-10 3

D-A K J 9 2

C-K 9 2

WEST

S-10 9 4

H-A K Q 5

D-8 5 4

C-Q 8 7

EAST

S-Q J 3

H-8

D-Q 10 8

C-J 10 6 5 4 3

SOUTH

S-K 7 6 5

H-J 9 7 6 4 2

D-3 7

C-A

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass 1 D Pass

1 H Pass 2 D Pass

2 S Pass 2 N T Pass

3 H Pass 3 S Pass

4 S All Pass

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Canasta—

Good Players Find Selves in Dilemma

By OSWALD JACOBY

ALL IS not a bed of roses for even the best canasta players. For instance, I was watching a game in Dallas the other evening. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Robinson, two of our best and most enthusiastic players, had built up a nice lead in the game.

They needed 120 and their opponents were still in the 50 bracket when one of those equalizing hands came up.

The Robinsons could not get the count and the opponents were having a field day. They had not melded much because they were each holding so many cards that the Robinsons could not afford to freeze the discard pile and had merely to build up their hands so that they could go out eventually.

Finally Ted acquired the count and melded 2-A-A, 2-Q-Q and 10-10-10. He discarded and retained another deuce and an odd six spot in his hand.

The next player knew that his party might be over and therefore melded all the natural cards he could and left himself with five cards only.

MRS. ROBINSON came through. She added two deuces and two queens to Ted's queen meld, thereby completing a canasta for him and also melded three fives.

The next player took Mrs. Robinson's discard, melded down to four cards and discarded a black three.

Now Ted drew a nine. Upon looking over the situation on the table he saw that his opponents had completed two canastas and had several melds of five or six. It was particularly unfortunate that two of their six melds were naturals in nines and sixes.

Tough Spot Realized

THIS LEFT Ted in a real tough spot. He could freeze the pack, in which case he could not possibly go out for at least two rounds.

However, in that case both he and Mrs. Robinson would be able

to discard safely from then on and the opponents would be able to make canastas only with their few cards.

Or he could give away a natural canasta and keep his out position.

Pack Is Frozen

TED'S DECISION was to freeze the pack. His theory was that in all probability Mrs. Robinson also held cards that would be particularly valuable to the opposition.

Therefore, he reasoned that even though the hand went to the end the opponents could not make any natural canastas and would have to be content with completing canastas with wild cards.

I was inclined to approve his decision, particularly due to the fact that the opposition was down to four and five cards respectively.

Results Amazing

THE ACTUAL result of the hand was astounding. The opponents did not want to go out and after a few rounds during which several tens were discarded into the center the player at Ted's left threw away a jack.

His side already had a mixed canasta in jacks but Mrs. Robinson held two jacks anyway. She took the pile, melded the natural canasta in tens and several other melds and went out.

Mr. Jacoby is unable to answer individual questions on canasta from readers. However, he will include the most frequently asked questions in his column.

PTA Council Session Set

The second meeting of the Marion County Parent-Teacher Association Council will be at 10 a. m. Wednesday in Block's Auditorium.

Mrs. Jack C. Greig will speak on "Legislation."

Conferences will be held for Founders' Day, school luncheon, legislation, home and family life and safety chairmen and for unit vice presidents and historians. Unit meetings announced for the week follow.

TOMORROW

Speedway—1 p. m. Speedway Town Hall. "Juvenile Delinquency." Mrs. Bert C. McCammon. Open to the public.

TUESDAY

Bluff Avenue—7:30 p. m. "Are You a Push Button Patriot?" W. C. Philippi. Movies for the children.

Mars Hill—2:15 p. m. "Safety Builds for Freedom." Indiana

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