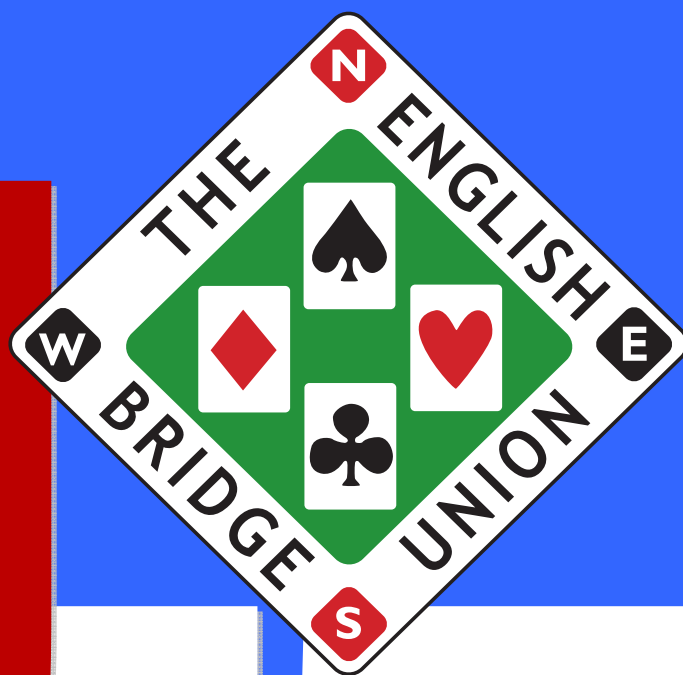


EBU 75th Anniversary
Simultaneous Pairs
Tuesday 8 May 2012

1936-2011

Over 75 years dedicated to Duplicate Bridge in England



EBU **75**

Welcome from the Chairman

Welcome to the EBU's 75th Anniversary Simultaneous Pairs. This event is the culmination of a momentous year in the life of the EBU and all its counties, clubs and individual members. To mark this special event we will be offering enhanced Master Point awards.

We have received some very positive responses to this special birthday – letters of congratulations from our sister national bridge organisations from across the globe, from the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation and a very special letter of recognition from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We have looked back over the past 75 years in our members' magazine *English Bridge*, and celebrated our Bridge Babes - members of the EBU who were born in 1936. But most of all we have looked at what we do today and its impact on tomorrow. We have held a special Minibridge day in London and we continue our work at national level to demonstrate the significance of playing duplicate bridge on the health and welfare of the older members of our society.

Thank you for being part of our organisation. I hope you have an enjoyable game.

Very best wishes



Sally Bugden

Bridge in the 1930s

by Brian Senior

Bridge in the 1930s was very different to bridge today. For one thing, it was NEWS. A big part of the responsibility for that can be laid at the door of the biggest name in the history of bridge – Ely Culbertson.

It was as recently as 1925 that Harold S. Vanderbilt had produced the new scoring table, which had proved to be so popular that his new contract bridge had overtaken the old auction bridge form of the game. Various groups of top players and teachers in the USA were trying to claim the position of leading authority on how the game should best be played and, in particular, to gain dominance for their bidding methods.

Culbertson was a great self-publicist – he challenged rivals to set matches and, when his team won those matches, claimed that this proved the superiority of his bidding methods. It proved nothing of the kind, of course, merely that Culbertson's team was substantially stronger than his rivals. However, the public were willing to believe the claims, and Culbertson's future as a bridge teacher, writer and publisher of books based on his methods was assured. (continued on back pages..)

<p>♠ K9854 ♥ QJ ♦ 98753 ♣ J</p> <p>♠ AJ2 ♠ 7 ♥ 102 ♥ 98754 ♦ AJ ♦ 102 ♣ A87643 ♣ Q10952</p> <p>♠ Q1063 ♥ AK63 ♦ KQ64 ♣ K</p>		<p>HCP</p> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>4</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>2</td></tr></table>		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	7	N	-	2	-	4	-	14	S	-	2	-	4	-	17	E	4	-	2	-	2		W	4	-	2	-	2
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Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all

N/S have three aces to lose and 4♠ will be decided by declarer's view in trumps. If West has overcalled 2♣, declarer will do very well to play him for spade length and rates to go down more often than not.

In 1933, Gottlieb made 4♠, but his auction was more helpful. He opened 1♠ as South – remarkably to 21st century eyes – the concept that to bid two suits in descending order promises five of the first suit had not yet taken a firm hold. Tabbush overcalled INT and, when Josephine made a simple raise to 2♠, Gottlieb bid 3♥, and she jumped to 4♠. Tabbush cashed the club ace then switched to a heart. Gottlieb won in dummy and led a spade to the queen and ace. Tabbush returned the two of spades but the INT overcall made it more likely that he held three cards than two and Gottlieb finessed and made his contract for +420.

In the other room, Domville opened the South hand with 1♦ and Culbertson doubled. When he next introduced his clubs, Lightner saved in 5♣ over 4♠. Minus100 was a cheap save and ensured a useful swing to the Culbertson squad of 320 aggregate points.

Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable

Six Diamonds is cold on the N/S cards and, after a 1♦ opening from South, it should not be too difficult to reach. Of course, we have the benefit of Blackwood, in some form or other, but this was not available to the players in 1933. Beasley reached the small slam easily enough. Domville opened 1♦ and, after a 2♣ overcall from Ely, Beasley jumped to 4♦ – a strong bid in those days, as opposed to the preemptive style in today's tournament game. That attracted a 5♣ cuebid from Domville and Beasley jumped to 6♦.

There was no overcall at the other table but Gottlieb and Josephine overbid to 7♦ off a cashing ace. This appeared to be Gottlieb's fault as Josephine had jumped to 6♦ after making a slam try and getting an encouraging response and Gottlieb just guessed to go on to the grand slam. Tabbush doubled and cashed the ace of spades for down one and Beasley had gained a huge swing of 1570 points.

<p>♠ AQJ4 ♥ 1086 ♦ 43 ♣ A986</p> <p>♠ 109763 ♠ 8 ♥ K94 ♥ AJ732 ♦ K65 ♦ J10872 ♣ K10 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ K52 ♥ Q5 ♦ AQ9 ♣ QJ752</p>		<p>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Three No Trump is a poor spot on the N/S cards despite the combined 25 HCP and club fit. A heart lead defeats the contract immediately as the cards lie while even a non-heart lead sees declarer requiring the clubs to play for no loss to see the contract home. However, most pairs will bid to 3NT and many will make it as West is unlikely to have good reason to guess the heart lead.</p> <p>In 1933, Gottlieb/Josephine bid: 1♣ – 1♠ – 1NT – 3♣ – 3♠ – 3NT. With virtually identical red-suit holdings, Morris guessed to lead the five of diamonds and Gottlieb had 11 tricks for +470 (the first overtrick in no trump scored 40 points).</p> <p>Domville/Beasley bid it : 1♣ – 1♠ – 2♠ – 3♣. Ely led the ten of clubs but Domville was not dissuaded from taking the finesse and came to 11 tricks for +160 (3 x 20 doubled for the tricks bid and made plus 2 x 20 for the overtricks), giving a swing of 310 points to Culbertson.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 865 ♥ Q72 ♦ AQ6 ♣ AK87</p> <p>♠ QJ9432 ♠ A107 ♥ 854 ♥ K963 ♦ 92 ♦ J875 ♣ J9 ♣ 43</p> <p>♠ K ♥ AJ10 ♦ K1043 ♣ Q10652</p>		<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>Six Clubs is on the heart finesse and today is the day for the optimists to come into their own as the king is where it needs to be. Those who bid the slam will score very well, while anyone playing the club game rates to score poorly. Why, when there are six spades to be cashed by the defence? Very simply, N/S will only play 3NT if West does not bid spades, and then why should East kick-off with the ace against 3NT by North?</p> <p>In 1933, both N/S pairs bid 6♣ for a flat board. Beasley/Domville bid it: 1♣ – 3♣ (Forcing) – 3NT (minimum) – 4♦ – 5♣ – 6♣, while Lightner/Gootlieb bid: 1♣ – 1♦ – 1NT – 3♣ – 3♦ – 5♣ – 6♣. I can understand the American auction, where North has assumed that his top cards in both minors should make slam good once partner chooses to play 5♣ rather than 3NT, but the English pair appear to just be guessing – how on earth can South go on to slam?</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 852 ♥ 1065 ♦ A ♣ QJ9763</p> <p>♠ Q76 ♠ AK4 ♥ AQJ9 ♥ 43 ♦ K9875 ♦ QJ64 ♣ 10 ♣ A842</p> <p>♠ J1093 ♥ K872 ♦ 1032 ♣ K5</p>		<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>Six Diamonds is on little more than the heart finesse but diamonds will not be a consideration for most weak no-trumpers, as West will raise to game via Stayman. South could defeat the contract by finding an impossible king of clubs lead but in practice the jack of spades looks to be normal. The hand will be all about overtricks after North has won the first diamond and switched to a club. Those who take the heart finesse will come to 11 tricks for a good matchpoint score.</p> <p>In 1933, both Easts opened 1NT. Morris raised directly to 3NT while Ely bid a forcing 2♥ then bid 3NT over Lightner's 2NT rebid – both declarers made ten tricks after a spade lead, flat at +440. If the bidding looks strange, bear in mind that Stayman was not yet in existence.</p> <p>Incidentally, Sam Stayman was not the originator of everyone's second favourite convention, he merely wrote the first article about his regular partner, George Rapee's invention, in 1945. Jack Marx, a top English player, had come up with the same idea independently in 1939 but was not published until 1946.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ KQ52 ♥ AQ3 ♦ J7 ♣ Q1062</p> <p>♠ - ♠ AJ1094 ♥ KJ652 ♥ 10 ♦ KQ853 ♦ A642 ♣ KJ4 ♣ A98</p> <p>♠ 8763 ♥ 9874 ♦ 109 ♣ 753</p>		<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>Slam is an option once again on the E/W cards, 6♦ making quite comfortably as the cards lie whether declarer plays for the ruffing heart finesse, after passing the ten to the queen, or to ruff out the ace.</p> <p>The normal start would be 1♠ – 2♥ – 2♠ – 3♦, and that is how both pairs began in 1933. Now the paths diverged. Morris simply raised to 5♦ and Tabbush could not guess that his partner had three aces and the vital heart singleton so passed; +620. Lightner used a Culbertson invention, jumping to 4NT, not asking for aces but showing – either three aces or two aces plus a king in a previously bid suit. Presumably that had to be three aces to explain East's enthusiasm as he could not have a red king or even the trump queen. Anyway, Ely jumped to 6♦ and Beasley doubled, largely on the strength of his heart holding. Ely redoubled and had no problem making 12 tricks for +1730 and a swing of 1110 points to Culbertson. The strange score is explained by the fact that there was no extra bonus 'for the insult' in 1933, just the 120 for the trick score was redoubled.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ AK943 ♥ 108 ♦ Q97 ♣ 985</p> <p>♠ J106 ♠ Q872 ♥ AKQ632 ♥ J94 ♦ J106 ♦ AK53 ♣ A ♣ 72</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ 75 ♦ 842 ♣ KQJ10643</p>		<p>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>Though South will make a pre-emptive overcall at many tables, almost everyone should reach 4♥, making exactly if North leads three rounds of spades to give his partner a ruff. Those declarers who drop a spade honour at trick one and convince North to switch will score well for their overtrick. In 1933, Morris and Tabbush reached the heart game, albeit not via a particularly attractive auction. Morris opened 1♥ and Tabbush responded 2NT, natural and invitational – a slight stretch but, more seriously, risking the loss of a spade fit and also jumping in no trump when holding a small doubleton in a side-suit and some support for partner's hearts. However, Morris now jumped to 4♥ and made an overtrick when he followed with the spade jack at trick one and Josephine switched to a trump; +650.</p> <p>Lightner raised Ely's 1♥ opening to 2♥ and Ely invited with 3♥. Now Lightner offered 3NT as an alternative spot and, very surprisingly, Ely passed. That looks to be a very dangerous choice but no harm was done; +600.</p>																																					
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<p>♠ J9765 ♥ K ♦ 764 ♣ AQ32</p> <p>♠ K82 ♠ A43 ♥ 85 ♥ QJ10743 ♦ KQ85 ♦ 932 ♣ J865 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♥ A962 ♦ AJ10 ♣ K1094</p>		<p>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>Cherish your intermediate cards. Both 3NT and 4♠ are much better contracts due to the combination of the ten and nine of spades and, in the case of 3NT, the presence of the ♦ 10. However, both can be defeated, 4♠ by a club ruff, 3NT if East does not waste a heart honour at trick one or if he leads a diamond.</p> <p>In the days before weak two bids, Tabbush passed in third seat and Gottlieb opened 1NT as South then bid 2NT over Josephine's forcing 2♠ response. Josephine raised to 3NT and the five of diamonds lead left Gottlieb in control; nine tricks for +400.</p> <p>Lightner opened a light 1♥ and Domville overcalled 1NT then raised Beasley's 2♠ response to 3♠. The fact that the South hand was considered well up to strength for the overcall is confirmed by the fact that Beasley declined the invitation, passing 3♠. Lightner found the best lead, his singleton club, but Ely failed to give him his ruff so Beasley had an overtrick for +210 but a swing of 190 points to Culbertson.</p>																																					
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<p>♠ 942 ♥ J1093 ♦ 64 ♣ 8765</p> <p>♠ KJ10753 ♠ AQ6 ♥ K8 ♥ A74 ♦ AKQ8 ♦ 3 ♣ Q ♣ AKJ942</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q652 ♦ J109752 ♣ 103</p>		<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>With 17 top tricks, a grand slam is available in any of three denominations, so it may be important to pick the highest scoring of the three – 7NT. An old-fashioned strong jump shift would be the simplest route to seven, though probably 7♠. Morris and Tabbush bid it: 1♣ – 2♠ – 3♠ – 6♠ – 7♠. We would use some version of Blackwood today, of course. It is also fair to say that even those who play strong jumps might not use one here as a diamond fit could be lost by doing so. Under the then scoring table, the vulnerable grand slam bonus was 2250, so that was worth +2960. Domville overcalled with what Beasley described as 'the first psychic of the match' – 1♦ – and Ely began with a penalty double. Lightner jumped to 3♣ and only now did Ely introduce his spades. Lightner next jumped to 4NT, as seen previously, showing either three aces or two aces plus the king of a previously bid suit, and Ely responded 5♦. That cuebid did not appeal to Lightner, who had his own diamond control, so he signed off in 5♠. Though Ely raised himself to 6♠, the grand slam had been missed; +1460 but a 1500 point swing to Beasley.</p>											
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<p>♠ A9 ♥ A972 ♦ AQ3 ♣ 8653</p> <p>♠ 108432 ♠ Q65 ♥ K ♥ QJ8 ♦ K764 ♦ 10985 ♣ AQ7 ♣ J92</p> <p>♠ KJ7 ♥ 106543 ♦ J2 ♣ K104</p>		<p>Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>With N/S cold for nine tricks in a heart partscore, it will be important to double, should E/W compete in spades, where they can make seven tricks. If West does not open, North may open a weak no trump and South transfer. If you are ever going to break a transfer then this North hand, maximum with good honours, four trumps and a ruffing value, is surely the time to do so. However, South will pass the jump to 3♥. If West does open, presumably 1♠, North will double, East perhaps raise to 2♠ and South bid 3♥.</p> <p>In 1933, Josephine opened the North hand with 1♦, though we have seen that they were playing four-card majors. She raised the 1♥ response to 2♥ and that was that for a painless eight tricks and +120. Bizarrely, Beasley did not open the North hand so the deal was passed out. He comments in his book on the match that he might have opened but found what to bid a difficult question, deciding that perhaps 1♥ would be the best choice.</p>																																													
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<p>♠ 1098 ♥ KQJ654 ♦ Q5 ♣ 52</p> <p>♠ QJ76 ♠ 532 ♥ 10973 ♥ 8 ♦ A ♦ K109843 ♣ A1086 ♣ Q74</p> <p>♠ AK4 ♥ A2 ♦ J762 ♣ KJ93</p>		<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>N/S can make 3NT and might get there if North can show a weak two bid with a strong suit, though it is not straightforward to do so. Four Hearts is also possible unless East leads a spade as declarer can set up a diamond for a spade discard and then needs only a successful club guess. However, the majority are likely to stop short of game.</p> <p>In 1933, the Culbertson team had the auction to themselves at both tables. Ely opened the borderline West hand with 1♣ and rebid INT over Lightner's 1♦ response, Domville having kept silent with the South cards as his length was in the opposition's bid suits. Now Lightner converted to 2♣ and that ended the auction. Beasley does not make any comment as to why he never bid with the North hand. Ely made 2♣ to score +80.</p> <p>In the other room there were three passes to Gottlieb, who opened INT and bid 2NT over Josephine's 2♥ response. She now jumped to 4♥ but a spade lead from Morris saw her down one for -100 so a swing of 20 points to Beasley.</p>																																													
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<p>♠ AJ ♥ J ♦ K1096542 ♣ Q83 ♠ KQ109732 ♠ - ♥ 632 ♥ A109754 ♦ AJ7 ♦ Q83 ♣ - ♣ AK72 ♠ 8654 ♥ KQ8 ♦ - ♣ J109654</p>		<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>Four Hearts can be made easily enough, with an overtrick if declarer sets up the spades along the way as he ruffs his club losers in dummy. Four Spades, on the other hand, can be defeated by a combination of diamond ruffs and promotion of the jack of spades.</p> <p>Today, most Norths will open 1♦, but in 1933 both passed Tabbush/Morris now bid: 1♥ – 2♠ – 3♥ – 4♥ and Tabbush made 11 tricks +650.</p> <p>At the other table Ely responded only 1♠ and Beasley overcalled 2♦. That hardly looks to be a crime but Lightner made a penalty double and the ensuing defensive cross-ruff meant that the contract was held to five tricks. Three down doubled and vulnerable was –900 in those days so the swing was 250 points to Culbertson. Lightner did remarkably well to find a double holding only queen-to-three trumps, and the lay-out was very kind to him.</p>																																					
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<p>♠ AKQ107642 ♥ - ♦ 6 ♣ AQ104 ♠ 985 ♠ J ♥ A1087652 ♥ 43 ♦ A72 ♦ K10985 ♣ - ♣ J9653 ♠ 3 ♥ KQJ9 ♦ QJ43 ♣ K872</p>		<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>With the clubs lying badly for declarer, this is an unlucky 6♠ for N/S, going one down? Or is it?</p> <p>In 1933, both Norths declared 6♠ and both made an overtrick after a heart lead had enabled them to ruff out the ace to establish two discards.</p> <p>Morris opened 3♥ in third seat and Lightner overcalled 5♠, inviting slam, and accepted by Gottlieb. Ely preferred a 1♥ opening and Beasley cuebid 2♥, showing a big hand but also, and crucially, a heart void. When Domville jumped to 3NT in response, Beasley in turn jumped to 6♠. While the heart lead may be entirely reasonable facing the 3♥ opening, perhaps Josephine had sufficient clues not to lead her husband's suit at the other table.</p> <p>A club lead sees West ruff and he can then cash the ace of diamonds for the setting trick. On a spade lead, declarer goes down more slowly as he has nowhere to park either minor-suit loser. If East leads a diamond to partner's ace, however, the slam can be made as east is then squeezed in the minors on the run of the spades.</p>																																					
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<p>♠ K7532 ♥ K7 ♦ 1074 ♣ 1086</p> <p>♠ J10 ♠ 8 ♥ J84 ♥ AQ109532 ♦ KJ632 ♦ A8 ♣ AK2 ♣ Q73</p> <p>♠ AQ964 ♥ 6 ♦ Q95 ♣ J954</p>		<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>E/W have slam on a finesse but it will be rare to see it bid. The E/W hands fit well together, hence the possibility of 12 tricks on a low point-count. Perhaps, given a free run, slam might be reached via a INT opening and transfer followed by self-agreeing splinter: INT – 2♦ – 2♥ – 3♠, when the West hand will look good as there is almost no spade wastage. Even so, a finesse is still required so you only know whether you want to be in it after the play is over.</p> <p>In 1933 Ely opened 1♦ and it continued: 1♥ – INT – 3♥ – 4♥ – 5♥ – Pass. There would have been the negative inference here from East's failure to bid 4NT over 4♥, thereby denying three aces or two aces plus a bid king. In the other room, Morris inexplicably failed to open as West. However, Tabbush opened 3♥ in fourth seat and Morris had an easy raise to game.</p> <p>With both Souths leading the four of clubs, all 13 tricks were made at both tables for a flat board.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ KQ742 ♥ KJ6 ♦ 86 ♣ 852</p> <p>♠ AJ10963 ♠ 85 ♥ Q ♥ A952 ♦ AK42 ♦ Q1053 ♣ Q10 ♣ 764</p> <p>♠ - ♥ 108743 ♦ J97 ♣ AKJ93</p>		<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>The E/W hands fit well together and 4♠ appears to be a perfectly playable contract – until the spade position comes to light. It is more normal, however, to stop in partscore, as someone has to make a serious overbid for game to be reached.</p> <p>The deal was a disaster for Beasley. Ely opened 1♠ and Lightner responded INT. When Domville overcalled 2♣ and Ely jumped to 3♠, Beasley doubled. It looks as though 3♠ can be defeated if declarer is repeatedly forced, as North will come to a third trump trick, but that requires him to switch to the king of hearts at some point and this beasley failed to do. Ely made his contract for +680.</p> <p>At the other table the auction began 2♠ – 2NT and Gottlieb overcalled 3♣. When Morris/Tabbush now reached 4♠, Josephine doubled and the defence proved to be rather better than the declarer play, resulting in three down for – 900 and a swing of 1580 points to Culbertson.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 103 ♥ KQ542 ♦ 76 ♣ A542</p> <p>♠ A64 ♠ KQ85 ♥ J109 ♥ A83 ♦ Q843 ♦ AK52 ♣ KJ7 ♣ Q9</p> <p>♠ J972 ♥ 76 ♦ J109 ♣ 10863</p>		<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <p>This peaceful deal was flat at 3NT+3 in 1933, the defence being quite sloppy at both tables. Tabbush opened the flat 18-count 2NT and was raised to game by Morris. Lightner opened 1♠ and raised Ely's 2NT response to game. It is hard to imagine an alternative contract to 3NT, but 11 tricks looks to be the normal outcome. Superficially, a careful North might be able to establish a long card in whichever of hearts and clubs declarer first attacked, so having a third defensive trick to cash when the other stopper is knocked out. However, declarer can cash the diamonds and two top spades to squeeze North out of his long card in one of hearts and clubs then play on that suit before the other to ensure 11 tricks. Making only ten tricks should score very badly, while anyone who matches the 1933 results and comes to 12 tricks should get a huge matchpoint score.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ AJ7643 ♥ 8 ♦ Q ♣ Q10742</p> <p>♠ 10 ♠ 8 ♥ 10732 ♥ AKQJ9654 ♦ K975 ♦ A8 ♣ J985 ♣ A3</p> <p>♠ KQ952 ♥ - ♦ J106432 ♣ K6</p>		<p>Board 18 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <p>There are 11 tricks for E/W in a heart contract but no chance of a twelfth without a serious defensive error. In 1933, both E/W pairs overbid to the hopeless slam, Beasley gaining 50 points for an extra undertrick. The East hand offers the possibility to use a rare feature of the Acol system. East opens 2♣ and rebids 3♥ over the 2♦ response. This shows a self-supporting suit and demands that partner cuebid an ace if he holds one. Failing that, 3NT promises at least one king (or, exceptionally, a singleton with trump support) but no ace and is the correct call on this West hand. With neither a first- nor second-round control, West would simply raise to 4♥. Over West's 3NT, East cuebids 4♣ and hears West cuebid 4♦, showing the king. Having shown game in his own hand, East can now sign-off in 4♥, trusting West to make a further move if he has potential for a second trick. On this occasion, West will pass 4♥ to complete an nicely controlled auction.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 97 ♥ A97 ♦ Q98 ♣ A10643</p> <p>♠ QJ10 ♠ K86432 ♥ K4 ♥ Q103 ♦ KJ10765 ♦ 2 ♣ K5 ♣ 987</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ J8652 ♦ A43 ♣ QJ2</p>		<p>Board 19 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</p> <p>In this lively set of boards a competitive partscore deal is something of a novelty. I say partscore deal but, as the cards lie, careful play should produce ten tricks in a heart contract as East can be kept off play until it is too late to set up a defensive diamond trick and the diamonds go away on North's club winners. Meanwhile, there are eight tricks for E/W in spades.</p> <p>In 1933, both Souths opened 1♥, described as light but correct by Beasley, and West overcalled 2♦. North had an awkward decision now – the hand is worth a raise to 3♥ if partner can be relied upon to hold a fifth heart but, of course, that was not the case. Both Beasley and Josephine settled for a heavy 2♥. Lightner went quietly on the East cards so Domville was left to play 2♥ for +180. Tabbush competed with 2♠ and Morris raised to 3♠. With the ace of clubs offside, there were five top losers in this contract for down one and –100 but a nett +80 to Beasley.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 9 ♥ Q109642 ♦ 96 ♣ KQ96</p> <p>♠ K5 ♠ A108632 ♥ A83 ♥ J7 ♦ J4 ♦ A753 ♣ AJ8754 ♣ 3</p> <p>♠ QJ74 ♥ K5 ♦ KQ1082 ♣ 102</p>		<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <p>Game is very poor on the E/W cards and anyone who gets too high will be punished by the bad breaks in the black suits, with eight tricks looking to be the maximum. Not that game should be reached – East is worth at best a mild invitation facing a 1♣ opening and 2♣ rebid. Given a free run, a simple 1♠ followed by 2♠ would be sufficient, though a weak jump overcall from North would make life a good deal more difficult and it may then be tough to stop below 3♠.</p> <p>In 1933, both Norths overcalled 1♥ – this was before the time of weak jumps – and East bid 1♠. Domville bid 2♦ as South and Ely passed as West. After 2♥ from Beasley, Lightner passed as East and Ely competed with 2♠, raised to 3♠ by Lightner, who proceeded to go two down for –250. Gottlieb did not come in as South so Tabbush raised to 2♠, which looks odd to modern eyes. Morris invited with 3♠ and went back to 4♠ when Tabbush bid 4♣. Gottlieb doubled that for down two and –500, earning Culbertson a swing of 250 points.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 1094 ♥ A1095 ♦ 975 ♣ 753</p> <p>♠ QJ87 ♠ 532 ♥ J4 ♥ KQ72 ♦ AK3 ♦ QJ8 ♣ Q1098 ♣ K62</p> <p>♠ AK6 ♥ 863 ♦ 10642 ♣ AJ4</p>		<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <p>If South opens a weak no trump he will play there and, except on a low spade lead, five tricks is the limit – declarer playing on diamonds. A low spade to dummy's ten gives a sixth trick for –100 and a good score.</p> <p>Where South does not open INT, E/W will usually declare a no trump contract. The results will range from 3NT making to going one or two down, with partscores also making various numbers of tricks.</p> <p>In 1933, Gottlieb opened 1♦ and Morris overcalled 1♠. Tabbush responded INT and played there, making eight tricks after a heart lead for +100.</p> <p>Domville could find no sensible opening in his style, where a vulnerable INT would have needed to be significantly stronger and the diamond suit was not really biddable, so passed. Ely and Lightner now bid the E/W cards INT – 2NT – 3NT. The contract might have been defeated but Domville cashed a top spade when in with the ace of clubs and that gave Ely the tempo he required to come to ten tricks for +440 and a swing of 340 to Culbertson.</p>																																									
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<p>♠ 105 ♥ KQ643 ♦ 1095 ♣ Q63</p> <p>♠ J ♠ AKQ972 ♥ AJ9875 ♥ 2 ♦ 8742 ♦ QJ ♣ J10 ♣ K754</p> <p>♠ 8643 ♥ 10 ♦ AK63 ♣ A982</p>		<p>Board 22 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <p>The solid 6-1 spade fit plays at least a trick better than the broken 6-1 heart fit – which is as it should be, I guess. In 1933, both Wests responded 2♥ to East's 1♠ opening. Tabbush now rebid 3♠, which looks fine to me, and played there, while Lightner rebid only 2♠ then gave up when Ely repeated his hearts – a very dubious action in my view.</p> <p>Tabbush was one down in 3♠, having to lose two diamonds and three clubs; –100. Ely had to lose five red tricks as well as the ace of clubs so was two down in 3♥ and, under the old scoring table, that cost –250; a swing of 150 points to Beasley.</p> <p>Today, even Acoll players would not make the two-over-one response, preferring an off-shape INT. Now East would select from 2♠, 3♠ and 2♣. With the diamonds of dubious value, I would go for the cautious 2♠ and pay-off to the occasional missed game. I would not dream of bidding 2♣ at matchpoints, as I never want to play in that suit and would be terrified of partner passing.</p>																																									
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<p>♠ 95 ♥ KJ1096 ♦ K ♣ 109642</p> <p>♠ 743 ♠ 106 ♥ A8 ♥ 75432 ♦ 76 ♦ J985 ♣ KQJ753 ♣ A8</p> <p>♠ AKQJ82 ♥ Q ♦ AQ10432 ♣ -</p>		<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <p>Six Spades is cold but not at all easy to get to and bidding and making slam should score very well.</p> <p>In 1933, Domville opened 2♠ and showed his diamonds over Beasley's 3♥ response. When Beasley now gave spade preference, Domville jumped to 6♠. He ruffed the club lead, drew trumps and set up the hearts – six spades, three hearts and three diamonds meant 12 tricks in all for +1530.</p> <p>Gottlieb opened only 1♠ and again we saw a light two-over-one response of 2♥ from Lightner. Gottlieb jumped to 4♦, 3♦ not being forcing in those days. Lightner repeated his hearts, which looks wrong – surely spade preference is better, however reluctantly it might be given? It mattered not, as no doubt Gottlieb would have jumped to 6♠ over 4♠, just as she did over 4♥. Gottlieb played it differently, cashing the king of diamonds at trick two, crossing to hand with a trump and ruffing a low diamond. Back to hand with a second club ruff, Gottlieb drew trumps and cashed the diamonds and had 12 tricks for a flat board.</p>																																										
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<p>♠ AQ83 ♥ A1065 ♦ 2 ♣ 8654</p> <p>♠ J754 ♠ K102 ♥ J72 ♥ 84 ♦ A843 ♦ Q1096 ♣ AQ ♣ K1072</p> <p>♠ 96 ♥ KQ93 ♦ KJ75 ♣ J93</p>		<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <p>If West opens INT and plays there, the cards lie well enough that the contract should be made. But North may come in with a Landy 2♣ for the majors, and now South has good chances in 2♥. If that pushes E/W to compete in diamonds, eight tricks is the likely outcome. If West opens 1♦, North is just about worth a double because of the perfect distribution.</p> <p>The action from 1933 is a little odd. Neither West found an opening bid on their 12 HCP – at a different vulnerability I would sympathise, as the honour combinations are very poor, but this is the vulnerability at which you want to be declarer on competitive partscore deals and the best way to achieve that is usually to get in the first blow. The deal was thrown in at one table but Josephine opened the North hand with 1♠ and Gottlieb responded INT, where he was left to play. After a low diamond to the queen and king, it should not have been too difficult to defeat INT but the contract was allowed to make for +60.</p>																																										
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<p>♠ J865 ♥ J82 ♦ J1094 ♣ 73</p> <p>♠ 2 ♠ A1074 ♥ Q10973 ♥ 654 ♦ AKQ5 ♦ 73 ♣ J95 ♣ AK42</p> <p>♠ KQ93 ♥ AK ♦ 862 ♣ Q1086</p>		<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <p>The favourable heart position means that E/W can make 4♥. Whether they get there or not is likely to depend on whether East opens the three-trick hand or passes. Though Milton Work had proposed the 4-3-2-1 point count system of hand evaluation as early as the 1920s, the idea was not as popular as it is today and many top players instead counted honour tricks. The East hand includes three honour tricks, the ace-king and ace, and was therefore an automatic one-level opening, where point-counters would see it as only borderline.</p> <p>In 1933, both Easts opened 1♣. Lightner/Ely bid it: 1♣ – 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♦ (natural) – 2♥ – 3♥ – Pass, and scored a peaceful +170. In the other room, Morris passed Tabbush's 1♥ response and now Gottlieb placed his partner with rather more than three jacks. He reopened with a 1♠ overcall and now heard his opponents bid to game (2♦ – 2♥ – 3♥ – 4♥). He doubled, only to hear Tabbush, West, redouble. There was no escape and Tabbush collected ten tricks and +980 for a 770 point swing to Beasley.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ AK754 ♥ A98 ♦ K10 ♣ 863</p> <p>♠ 9832 ♠ J10 ♥ J1073 ♥ 652 ♦ 942 ♦ A85 ♣ 72 ♣ QJ954</p> <p>♠ Q6 ♥ KQ4 ♦ QJ763 ♣ AK10</p>		<p>Board 26 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <p>Six No Trump is the top spot on this one but, with only 31 combined HCP, it will require some good judgment to reach it with confidence, South upgrading the spade queen and North his fitting diamond honours. Indeed, it is the ten of diamonds that turns an otherwise OK contract into an excellent one as without it one of the long suits will need to divide evenly.</p> <p>In 1933, both N/S pairs reached the slam. Gottlieb/Josephine bid it: 1♦ – 2♠ – 2NT – 3NT – 6NT, with Gottlieb apparently guessing to play his partner for a top diamond. At the other table, Beasley opened out of turn and this was condoned with a pass from East so the auction continued. He and Domville bid it: 1♠ – 3♦ – 4NT – 5NT – 6NT, where Beasley upgraded his hand due to the diamond honours and control cards. On previous deals, we have seen some curious efforts in the bidding from Beasley, but here he seems to have judged well.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 75 ♥ AKJ743 ♦ K5 ♣ Q97</p> <p>♠ KQJ42 ♠ 9863 ♥ 86 ♥ 1092 ♦ A4 ♦ 973 ♣ K632 ♣ AJ5</p> <p>♠ A10 ♥ Q5 ♦ QJ10862 ♣ 1084</p>		<p>Board 27 : Dealer South : Love all</p> <p>N/S have eight tricks in either red suit, E/W have nine in a spade contract. With E/W making +140, it follows that any N/S who manage to buy the hand should score OK and those who buy it at the two level should score very well indeed.</p> <p>In 1933, both Wests opened 1♠ and North overcalled 2♥. It says something about the different philosophies then and now that both Easts passed when i would expect an overwhelming majority to compete today. Gottlieb now passed the South hand while Domville showed his diamonds and Beasley went back to 3♥. Both Easts led a spade.</p> <p>Josephine played safely in 2♥, winning the spade and drawing trumps then playing the king of diamonds, which was ducked. She made exactly for +120.</p> <p>In 3♥, Beasley was not at all secure. He too won the spade lead but played a diamond at trick two, dropping the king under Ely's ace. Ely cashed a spade trick then returned a diamond in hope of cutting declarer off from dummy. Beasley won, drew two rounds of trumps and played diamonds and made his contract when the red lengths were together; +180 and 60 points to Beasley. To defeat the contract, Ely needed to attack clubs when in with the diamond.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 43 ♥ K985 ♦ Q5 ♣ AQJ92</p> <p>♠ A1062 ♠ Q7 ♥ Q32 ♥ AJ74 ♦ J1043 ♦ A76 ♣ 75 ♣ K643</p> <p>♠ KJ985 ♥ 106 ♦ K982 ♣ 108</p>		<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <p>It is difficult to know what will happen on this partscore deal. Though INT may be made in either direction, and North may scramble home in 2♣, those contracts will also fail at other tables, as will 2♠ by N/S. An off-shape INT from North will see him declare 2♠ after a transfer, while those whose methods permit a 1♣ opening and INT rebid will surely go that route. For many, however, the North hand will be a 1♣ opening and 2♣ rebid. Meanwhile, East doe snot really have a sensible action ove reither 1♣ or INT, but that won't stop some getting involved.</p> <p>In 1933, Beasley opened 1♣ as North and rebid INT, failing by a trick after Lightner's lead of the queen of spades to dummy's king was ducked, as was the first club finesse. That start left the defence in control; -100.</p> <p>In the other room, Josephine did not open so Tabbush opened as East, choosing INT. He was left to play there and, on a low spade lead, did not guess the play very well so was two down for another 100 to Culbertson, giving the Americans a 200 point swing on the deal.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 10953 ♥ KJ52 ♦ 64 ♣ Q108</p> <p>♠ KJ87 ♠ AQ6 ♥ Q1076 ♥ A98 ♦ AJ ♦ K53 ♣ 972 ♣ AK43</p> <p>♠ 42 ♥ 43 ♦ Q109872 ♣ J65</p>		<p>Board 29 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <p>The popular auction will see East open 2NT and West use some variant of Stayman then, on discovering that there is no major-suit fit, invite with 4NT. East, with a 4-3-3-3 minimum, has no reason to even contemplate accepting, so 4NT it will be. After the likely lead of the ten of diamonds has been won by dummy's jack, 11 or 12 tricks will be decided by declarer's approach to the heart suit.</p> <p>In 1933, Tabbush opened 2NT and was raised to 3NT – if that looks a little cautious, remember that on an earlier board this pair opened 2NT with a flat 18 HCP. Tabbush won the diamond and led a heart to the ace and a second heart so lost two tricks there and had only 11 for +670.</p> <p>Lightner opened 1♣ and jumped to 3NT over Ely's 1♠ response. He too won the jack of diamonds but led the queen of hearts at trick two so had three winners in the suit and 12 in all; +710 and a 40 point swing to Culbertson.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ K97 ♥ KJ954 ♦ 75 ♣ 1094</p> <p>♠ A84 ♠ 1053 ♥ 10 ♥ 732 ♦ AKJ1098 ♦ Q632 ♣ K76 ♣ QJ2</p> <p>♠ QJ62 ♥ AQ86 ♦ 4 ♣ A853</p>		<p>Board 30 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <p>Each side can make nine tricks in its chosen red suit, so par is for N/S to double E/W in 4♦ for one down, collecting +100. That may not happen all that often, however. It will be normal for South to open 1♣, West to overcall and North to introduce his hearts. A diamond raise, a heart raise, and after that it will be a matter of how aggressive everyone is feeling.</p> <p>In 1933, Domville opened 1♣ and Beasley bid 1♥ after the overcall. Lightner did not raise diamonds but Ely came again with 4♦ over Domville's 3♥ jump raise. He must have been delighted with the dummy, though he had to go one down for -50.</p> <p>Gottlieb opened 1♠, Morris overcalled 2♦ and Josephine raised to 2♠. Again, East remained silent, but Gottlieb tried 3♥ and was raised to 4♥. Morris led the king of diamonds and had no reason to switch. Alas, when he led a second diamond, Gottlieb ruffed, drew trumps and knocked out the ace of spades. The even spade split meant that he had ten tricks for +420 and a 370 point swing to Culbertson.</p>																																											
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<p>♠ 10876 ♥ J85 ♦ K8743 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ J ♠ K932 ♥ 7643 ♥ KQ102 ♦ QJ10 ♦ A9 ♣ A9654 ♣ KJ10</p> <p>♠ AQ54 ♥ A9 ♦ 652 ♣ Q832</p>		<p>Board 31 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <p>As the cards lie, it takes an opening club lead followed by two club ruffs to defeat 4♥ by E/W – not impossible, but not easy either. If South fails to open, E/W may well get to 4♥, however, most Souths will open. If that opening is INT, North would do well to run before the doubling starts – a Stayman 2♣ response, planning to pass whatever the reply works very well on this deal and makes life tough for E/W. If they can now get to 4♥, good luck to them, while the play and defence of 2♠ is quite interesting.</p> <p>Back in 1933, Domville did not open and E/W bid it: 1♥ – 3♥ – 3NT – 4♥. Domville cashed the major-suit aces then led a second heart and Lightner got clubs right for an overtrick; +450.</p> <p>Gottlieb opened 1♠ and caught a simple raise from Josephine. With plenty of high cards but also spade length, Tabbush went quietly with the East cards and that was that. After a diamond lead and heart switch, Gottlieb managed seven tricks for –100 but still 350 points to Culbertson.</p>																																										
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<p>♠ J62 ♥ 72 ♦ AJ108763 ♣ 2</p> <p>♠ Q10 ♠ A8 ♥ K643 ♥ AQ1085 ♦ 54 ♦ KQ9 ♣ AJ1043 ♣ 865</p> <p>♠ K97543 ♥ J9 ♦ 2 ♣ KQ97</p>		<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <p>E/W have an easy 4♥, the defence needing to take a diamond ruff to save the overtrick as, with East declarer, there is no way to get at the defensive spade trick – the auction will allow declarer to put up the queen should a spade be led at trick one. However, at the prevailing vulnerability, N/S have a paying save in 4♠, and the deal is mostly about whether they can find it.</p> <p>In 1933, both Easts opened 1♥, South overcalled 1♠ and West supported hearts, but there was a difference. Morris bid only 2♥, very timid by modern standards, and that left room for Josephine to conveniently introduce her diamonds. When Tabbush now jumped to 4♥, Gottlieb had no reason to bid again and Josephine also chose to go quietly. A diamond lead but spade switch meant 11 tricks for +650.</p> <p>Ely gave a more normal jump raise to 3♥ and, with 3♦ not an option, Beasley bid 3♠. When Lightner now bid the heart game, Domville had a clear 4♠ bid, doubled by Lightner. After two rounds of hearts followed by two rounds of spades, there was only one club ruff so Domville was down two for –250 but a swing of 400 points to Beasley.</p>																																										
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Bridge in the 1930s

(continued from front inside cover..)

Culbertson attracted media coverage with his pronouncements and general approach and the game of contract bridge fed off this to strengthen its position and gain new adherents.

As well as playing high-profile challenge matches in USA, Culbertson took teams to Europe to play further matches and, in particular, to Great Britain, which his team visited in 1930, defeating Lt.Col. Walter Buller's team followed by another win over a team representing Crockford's Club; in 1933, when he defeated Lt. Col. 'Pops' Beasley's team for the Schwab Cup; and in 1934, when he retained the Schwab Cup, this time defeating a team captained by Col. George Walshe.

All these matches were scored on total aggregate points as this was before the creation of the first IMP scale. The deals for this evening's special 75th anniversary EBU Simultaneous Pairs competition are taken from the 1933 Schwab Cup match between Culbertson (Ely & Josephine Culbertson, Theodore Lightner and Michael Gottlieb, and Beasley (Col. H.M. Beasley, Sir Guy Domville, Lady Doris Rhodes, Graham Mathieson, George Morris and P.V. Tabbush).

Incidentally, Beasley and Tabbush were members of the team which, in 1931-32 won the first ever British Gold Cup, the UK's premier domestic teams' event.

There were differences in the scoring from what we are used to today. The scale for undertricks, both doubled and undoubled, was different, while the teams also agreed that for any successful contract below game level the trick score would be doubled for those tricks actually contracted for – there was no partscore bonus as such. So to bid and make 3♥ would score +180 (2 x 90), while to bid 2♥ and make nine tricks would score +150 (2 x 60 plus 30). Bidding methods were also somewhat primitive – this was, for example before the invention of either Blackwood or Stayman.

The Culbertson team won the 300-board match by 10,900 aggregate points.

Over this evening's 32 deals, Culbertson gained 530 aggregate points.

Thank you to our commentator today: Brian Senior.



Left to right:
 Ely Culbertson (American Captain)
 Lady Doris Rhodes (England),
 Colonel George Walshe (Umpire)
 Josephine Culbertson (America) and
 Colonel H M Beasley (English Captain)



Left to right:
 Captain Colonel H M Beasley
 and Captain Ely Culbertson in a
 practice session



Left to right:
 Michael Gottlieb (America)
 George Morris (England)
 Mr Mundy (Umpire)
 Theodore Lightner (America)
 P V Tabbush (England)



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