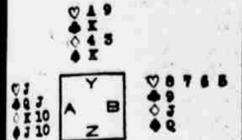


That Amazing Checker Game Develops Another Line of Play

The Experts Haven't Found Out Whether It Is a Win or a Draw—Interesting Bridge Positions and Puzzles

Bridge problem No. 493 was designed to illustrate the importance of getting an adversary to discard first when it is evident that both sides will have to un-guess something. In any position in which every trick must be won by the same partner it is always the discard that settles it. Here is the distribution:



White to play and win. The distribution is: Black men on 5 and 27; king on 16. White man on 22; king on 23 and 25.

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z must all seven tricks. The solution is for Z to lead the king of hearts, which Y must win with the ace, returning the nine, upon which Z discards a useless spade. A now has to pick his first discard among three suits. He sheds a spade, Y makes two tricks in that suit at once by leading the king and five. This allows Z to discard the queen of diamonds, but forces A to choose again for his second discard.

If he now lets go a diamond, Z having only one left, Y leads a diamond, Z must make his king of clubs. Y wins, and makes the last trick with the same diamond. If A discards a club, instead of the diamond, Y must make his king of clubs and then lead a diamond. This Z wins with the ace, and makes the last trick with the ten of clubs.

On the second trick, A may discard a diamond, instead of the club, which Z must make his club trick before leading the diamond, and when Z makes his two tricks in diamonds A will have to discard a spade and give up the best club.

If A prefers to discard the club on the second heart lead, Y plays as the ace when A discards a diamond. Then he makes his king of clubs and then leads a small diamond, which Z wins with the ace. Now the ten of clubs forces the decisive discard from A, who must give up the king of diamonds or give Y two spade tricks.

This problem cannot be solved by any attempt to make the ace and king of hearts separately, because if the king is allowed to hold Y must be put on one of the black suits.

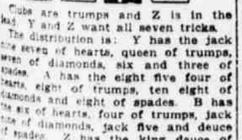
If Z picks the club for the second trick A will be free to discard a spade when Y leads the ace of hearts, because Z will have to pick his discard when A when Y leads the second of Y's winning spades and A will keep his king.

If Z picks the club for his lead after the king of hearts A still discards the king of hearts, Y leads the ace of hearts, and Z is now holding over Z, who will have to discard first, when Y leads the second spade.

This spade discard was overlooked by the solver, because it was assumed that the first trick with the heart king would defeat even the double passing of the lead from Z to Y. Suppose Z leads a spade for the second trick and discards a spade on the ace of hearts.

As defense is the spade discard, but instead of making his five of spades Z leads a diamond, and Z wins the first trick with the heart king. Now he must make his five of spades and the throwing of the lead back and forth does not avoid the difficulty of the first decisive discard having to come from Z and not from A.

BRIDGE PROBLEM NO. 493.



What route did he discover to be the shortest?

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS. POKER.—E. M. S. says: The opener draws one card and bets. Only the dealer calls. The opener shows four cards, but has only four cards in his hand. He has failed to disclose the card asked for, which has in the meantime become mixed with the discards. The dealer insists the opener is foul.

G. L. says: After a pool has been won by A offering to bet that B, who lost it, had the better chance on the original hand; that is, the odds were in B's favor before the draw. A hid a straight, B hid a flush, and A broke his straight to draw to four cards of a flush when B stood pat, as B drew first and had opened. A got his flush.

It is not stated as a condition of the bet that both players were to draw cards. If it is A wins, as he must break up his hand to draw. If A means that B had the better chance on the original hand he loses, as B's chances of improving three is 8 to 1 against, even if he draws two cards; whereas A's straight is a certainty, as it is dealt to him pat.

R. L. F. asks the odds in favor of improving a small pair by drawing only two cards, holding up an ace on the side. The odds are against improvement, not in favor of it. It is 4 to 1 against any improvement; 12 to 1 against making a triplet; and 8 to 1 against two pairs.

Cribbage.—L. C. J. says: A cuts. B turns up two cards. B says the higher is the starter. Is this correct? The eldest hand may take his choice.

Sixty-six. H. McC. says: A draws a card and closes. B bets that he cannot close after drawing. B is wrong. Either player may close provided he is in the lead, and he may do so either before or after drawing.

Chinese Bank.—F. K. S. asks where the rules for this game may be found, and says it is a form of double solitaire. The game referred to is probably "Russian Bank," the rules for which can be had from any bookseller that handles work on games.

How Bids at Auction Can Be Made to Give the Partner a Correct Idea of the Possibilities of a Hand

By R. F. FOSTER. The general tendency in modern bidding at auction seems to be toward the perfection of detail, the classification of hands by the variation of the bids so as to differentiate certain holdings from others, just as players do with their leads from combinations of high cards.

Since the days of duplicate whist all good players have adopted a system of stating the genus and species of their holdings by certain combinations of high cards leads. The most familiar example is probably that of the seven hands from which one would lead the king. There are no less than seven different ways of leading from these eleven combinations, all starting with the king.

With only two high cards, ace and king, the ace follows the king and denies the queen. With ace king queen a great interest in the game of checkers. It is the favorite game at all training camps and nearly half a million checkers sets have been sent over to the boys in France through the Y. M. C. A.

A member of THE SUN Checker Club writes that the game is attracting wide attention in New England, and matches are being played in the cities and villages of almost all occurrences. A large crowd assembled at the Hotel Stratford in Bridgeport last Monday to witness the match between New Haven and Bridgeport, which was won by the visiting team—Evans, O'Connell, Spector, Skilton and Silver, who defeated Meade, the former State champion, McMahon, Booth, Gordon and Griffiths of Bridgeport. The chief interest was in the games between Evans and Meade, as Meade was the only player to win a game from Evans in the tournament last April. Evans won at Bridgeport with a score of 3 to 1 and 3 in two games.

Those Ten Digits. The variation of ten digit puzzles given two weeks ago seems to have been the most difficult to solve, if one may judge from the number who have asked if it is correctly stated, as if it were impossible.

The proposition is this. If we add up the odd digits we get a total of 35; adding the even ones 20 only. The puzzle is to rearrange the two groups in such a manner that the sum of the odd digits of 5 the total should be the same in each case. Here is the solution:

79 1	2
53	84
84 3	1
1	84 3

The Sentry's Problem. A sentry was told off to watch half a dozen immense piles of stores, with one every half hour. As the clock some walking, he sat down to figure out how he could obey orders with the least amount of physical exertion. Here is the solution: The sentry box at A and another at B. He could make either of these his headquarters between rounds.

When auction came into vogue I undertook the same investigation of a large number of hands played at that game to find out the proportion of tricks that fell to the trumps. Strange as it may appear almost the same proportion holds good as at whist.

One of the interesting points in the study of the trump is the fact that the trump trick in the dummy, there being as good as an ace of a short suit. The reason for this is rather difficult to state in exact terms, but here is a comparison of the two results. The result was found to be in a large number of the 2,000 deals examined.

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The correct bid with six hearts to the ace king is two, with nothing more to say unless it is to deny the partner's suit if he shifts to one in which you are short; or perhaps to go to no-trumps, but never to bid any more hearts.

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These two bids are quite distinct. No good player should bid more than one heart or spade unless he holds more than five in the suit, or unless he can afford to bid a bid of one. No player should advance his original bid except on outside tricks. Keeping these two principles in mind one lays the foundation for a complete system of rational bidding, some of the important features of which will be touched upon in future articles.

As the number of hearts or spades increases the bid must increase. Seven to the ace king might be worth an initial bid of three, if two extra trumps are worth two tricks more than what would be worth for a bid of one. The king is to be sure of it that the Ace were a bid to start with, before counting the extra ones.

POEMS WORTH READING. The Service Flag. A woman sits by a window. On her lap is a knitting bag. On her face is a smile of triumph. On the window above is a flag.

A Rag with a Field of White. And a border of flaming red. Two stars that are black for the living: One golden star for the dead.

The Neighbor that stops in passing. And silently bares his head. Well knows that the best beloved Was the golden star in the red. R. F. FOSTER.