

# The Gazette

Montreal, Monday, April 11, 1938

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## According to Culbertson

Every one who reads newspapers has heard about the new game, five suit bridge. The revolutionary idea of adding one entire suit to the standard deck evidently has caught the fancy of editors, and the result has been a veritable flood of publicity. I have been besieged with questions: "What do you think of five suit bridge?" "Will it supersede contract?" "Is there any sense to it? etc.,etc., far into the night. Also, I have been asked to explain the game in detail in this column.

First, let me stifle the fears of those contract players who have devoted a great deal of time, effort, patience, and a not inconsiderable amount of money to the pursuit of contract knowledge. In my opinion, there is not the slightest reason for them to fear that they will have to scrap this hard won knowledge. Whatever the merits of five suit bridge (and it still is too early for unbiased, accurate appraisal), contract undoubtedly will remain the great American game. :layers who wish to experiment with five suit bridge will no doubt find pleasure and interest in the variety provided by the fifth suit, and the fact that the sixty-fifth card becomes a kitty which can be manipulated by the highest bidder to his own advantage. Two or three million players may even prefer five suit bridge to contract, but even this number will be a small minority compared to the great army of contract players. But, before I philosophize further about the game, let me explain its mechanics.

## **The Green Suit:**

A brand new suit, printed in green and marked by an eagle device has been added to the standard deck of fifty-two cards, this giving us a sixty-five card deck. This deck is dealt in the usual bridge manner and every player gets sixteen cards. The last card (the sixty-fifth) is turned face up in the center of the table, and called the widow, or kitty. I shall refer to this kitty later.

## **Rank of Suits:**

The new rankings of suits is as follows: First, as always, no trump; next, the green suit, royals (or eagles); then, in order, spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs. Thus a bid of one royal will overcall a bid of any other suit, but one no trump still will outrank a bid of any suit.

## **Eight Trick “Book”, 120-Point Game:**

Instead of the traditional six trick “book” of auction and contract, declarer’s “book” at five suit bridge is eight tricks. Hence, a bid of one becomes a contract for nine tricks (one over “book”), a bid of five, a contract for thirteen tricks. To make a game at five suit bridge you must score 120 points instead of 100. The scoring values of tricks have been changed as follows: No trump (per trick), 40 points; royals, 30 points; spades, 25 points; hearts, 25 points; diamonds, 20 points; clubs, 20 points.

## **Slams:**

In five suit bridge there are three types of slams: A small slam is a contract for six tries over book (fourteen tricks in all). It will be noted that you can fulfill a small slam contract even though you lose two tricks. A grand slam is a bid for fifteen tricks, and you can afford to lose one trick. A super slam is a bid for all the tricks. The scoring values of slams are: Small slam, not vulnerable, 500; vulnerable, 750; Grand slam, not vulnerable, 1,000; vulnerable, 1,500; Super slam, not vulnerable, 1,500; vulnerable, 2,000 Penalties remain the same as in contract. Honor bonuses remain the same except that now a player may hold all five aces in one hand, and for this he gets 300 points.

## **The Exposed Kitty:**

The sixty-fifth card, which becomes the exposed kitty, is by all odds the most important feature of five suit bridge. The player who becomes declarer has the privilege of waiting for the opening lead and then picking up this kitty and placing it either in dummy or in the closed hand at his own choice, discarding any card from the same hand. During the bidding each player visualizes how the kitty card would affect his own holding and based his bids and responses accordingly. Obviously this has an enormous influence on the bidding, and it is equally obvious that the eventual declarer usually can gain tremendous advantage from the proper placing of the kitty card.

In tomorrow's article I shall show the application of this point and discuss five suit bridge further.

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