

# The Gazette

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## Five-Suit Bridge

In yesterday's column I outlined the mechanics of five-suit bridge. Also, I stated my opinion that this new game, while undoubtedly interesting and entertaining, never can supplant contract bridge. But I urge my readers to try out five-suit bridge, if only for the sake of novelty. Culbertson players will find that they are particularly fortunate in that their bidding system can be adapted to five-suit bridge, with only a few painless changes. For the past month I have been hard at work codifying the necessary changes and very shortly will be able to present a scientifically accurate and simple Culbertson system for five-suit bridge.

I am reputed to be inordinately conceited, and probably am, yet I did not think myself genius enough to follow the example of several "authorities" who, with unparalleled agility, had books written and on sale before the green ink on the new suits was dry, and before they themselves had played as many as five rubbers! Perhaps it is superfluous to point out that whenever a game is worthy of a system, said system cannot be evolved overnight.

Five-suit bridge already has been tested in duplicate play in England. Here is a hand reported in the British Bridge World magazine:

	North R KQJ1072 ♠ J972 ♥ 762 ♦ 5 ♣	
West R 653 ♠ 8 ♥ KJ5 ♦ Q10932 ♣ Q1087		East R 9 ♠ K63 ♥ Q1084 ♦ AJ654 ♣ 642
	South R A84 ♠ A1054 ♥ A93 ♦ 8 ♣ AKJ93	

Kitty Card, S. Q.  
 The bidding in Room 1 was:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	2 Clubs
Pass	2 royals	3 Diamonds	3 Spades
Pass	4 royals	Pass	6 royals
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The four of hearts was led and North put the spade queen in dummy and discarded the eight of diamonds.

The Heart Ace won the first trick. Declarer then cashed the Club Ace and King, discarding a Heart, ruffed a Club, ruffed a Diamond in dummy, ruffed another Club high, then ruffed the Diamond King with the royal Ace. He drew trumps and then took the Spade finesse. When it succeeded, all sixteen tricks were his.

In Room 2 the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Club
Pass	1 royal	Pass	2 Spades
Pass	5 Spades	Pass	8 Spades
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against the super slam in Spades, West opened the six of royals. South, the declarer, made the same exchange that had been made in the other room, that is, he threw away the Diamond eight and took the Spade Queen into his own hand.

With the Spade finesse succeeding, there was no difficulty in fulfilling the contract. Obviously a super slam should not have been reached inasmuch as it depended on a finesse. North, in particular, overbid when he jumped from two Spades to five without a single Ace in his hand and with only fair support for the secondarily bid Spade suit.

South was naturally led astray by this jump. He figured on taking the Spade Queen into his own hand and discarding the losing Diamond in case North did not have the Diamond Ace. Then if North had Spade length with the King, as his bid indicated, there would be an excellent play for all the tricks.

I can well understand, however, that that both partners were spurred by the desire to be the first players in England to bid and make a super slam, and the success of the Spade finesse gave them that distinction.