

It' all in the stars

London's Young Chelsea Bridge Club produces its own magazine. An article by Lizzie Laroche entitled "The Astrological Guide to Bridge Players" deserves a wider audience and will help you all to work out how well you are going to do in the Mixed Teams. Let's feature the ladies.

ARIES ... Arian females are quick-witted and daring. If there is a slam there, they'll find it. Never mind that there are a couple of Aces missing - it doesn't matter. Arian females live to win and their brilliant logical minds plus their courageous play mean that they usually do so.

TAURUS ... Taurian females are voluptuous and beautiful. This helps them win at bridge. At the difficult moment they pout those bee-sting lips and lean forward to see the cards better. The unsuspecting males let their hormones take over and their concentration lapse. Then, quick as a flash, the Taurian lady has brought home an unmakeable contract for an outright top.

GEMINI ... Geminina females have very high IQs. They can also do several things at the same time. They chatter merrily while playing and all those around the table lose their concentration. But not Ms. Gemini! She has weighed the odds with decimal-point accuracy, transferred the menace and executed a criss-cross squeeze - and no one is the wiser. "Oh, how lucky I was to make it," she chirps happily.

CANCER ... Cancerian females are warm and loving. Their natural conservatism makes them steady and reliable as partners. They are full of praise for those with whom they play. Never a word of blame or criticism passes their lips. "You were very unlucky, partner," they sigh as their male companion fails trying to set up his hand instead of playing for the superior dummy reversal. "Well played to make it," they murmur to the opposition who stare uncomprehendingly at the traveler which shows that all other pairs made two overtricks. Everyone feels warm and cherished when the Cancerian female is at the table.

LEO ... Lady Leo eats men for breakfast. Clever and proud, daring and beautiful, she looks like a tigress and plays bridge like one. Forthright and open, she has not truck with artificial systems. "Bid your hand," she says - and she does. One spade - seven notrumps - no mucking about. She plays the hand like she means it. At the speed of light the cards come down. Male bridge players, in their usual patronizing fashion, think that the speed of play stems from her inability to play the hand. They soon patronize on the other side of their face.

VIRGO ... Virgo women are discrete and charming. Always beautifully manicured and perfumed, their meek demeanour belies the sharpness of their minds. A Virgo woman can remember every card, even if it was in a hand played 10 years ago. The average club player who can just about keep track of the trump suit is no match for her. She has every hand pinpointed down to the deuces. Men who underestimate her always come a cropper. It's easy to do though - she likes to talk about trivial issues such as the price of washing powder while playing bridge. The casual observer would not realize her as-

tute abilities and would probably assign her successes to luck. More fool him!

LIBRA ... A Libra woman is all woman. The greatest beauty of them all, her cool elegance and grace leaves onlookers open-mouthed. She seems to embody all that man longs for - tact, charm, defence, diplomacy, tantalizing beauty and an over-riding concern for her partner in life and at the bridge table. It is this great concern, rather than a competitive desire to win, that makes her the great player she is. When the partnership wins, she heaps lavish praise on her beaming partner, who becomes convinced that it was his devastating play that did it.

SCORPIO ... Scorpio women play bridge sexually. She caresses the cards and gazes meaningfully around the table. When her piercing regard meets yours and your thoughts turn hot and sweaty, can you really concentrate on making your heart game? Of course not.

SAGITTARIUS ... Sagittarian women are fun to be with. They are full of gaiety and they are very spontaneous. Such a woman finds herself in contracts that no one else is in and, partly because luck is always on her side and partly she doesn't believe in failure, she invariably makes them. She is never rude to anyone and everyone feels pleasantly refreshed by her presence. She has a delightful sense of humour - she makes you laugh even when she's just cleaned you out in a rubber game.

CAPRICORN ... The Capricorn female takes bridge - and life - seriously. Here is the dedicated tournament player who makes it to the finals regularly. Even the chauvinistic males who insist that women can't play bridge have to admit - grudgingly - that a Capricorn female may be an exception. She uses no wiles or tricks - just perseverance and hard work. When she does something, she has to be the best. She doesn't suffer fools gladly and she can't stand male chauvinism. Her cutting biting wit can wither the blustering macho fools who dare to cross her. Watch out!

AQUARIUS ... Aquarian women, when taking time off from solid state physics and aeronautical engineering, love to have a relaxing game of bridge. Unfortunately they do not find a male partner up to their standard. However, as they are so amazingly brilliant and gifted, they make up for their bad bidding and play from the men with their own intelligent and clever card play. They obviously do best when partnered with other women.

PISCES ... The Pisces woman is blessed with great intuition. This is a quality that is poohpooed by males, so the Pisces female usually keeps quiet about her methods. She does not need x-ray vision to see through the back of the cards - she "knows". When the opposition is the only pair in the room to go off in a slam because of Pisces' lead. (the unthinkable lead that is the only one that will beat the slam), the opponents of course put it down to luck. It isn't She really does "know". When men abandon their fixation on the rational mind and start believing, they may discover a whole new world.