

## LEDERER MEMORIAL CUP

The experiment of playing the Richard Lederer Memorial Cup as an invitation event for teams from the strongest Clubs led to a most interesting contest, and the English Bridge Union is likely to be well satisfied with the idea. Unfortunately, owing to illness and other causes, there were some late withdrawals, so that there were only five teams in the final instead of eight. The teams were Crockford's, Hamilton, Lederer's, Dorset House, and Leeds. Crockford's and Leeds scored six victory points out of eight, Lederer's four, Hamilton and Dorset House two. The tie was decided in favour of Crockford's, as Crockford's beat Leeds in the match between the two teams. As matches were of 21 boards, the event was a good test; the Yorkshire team had the best net score in victory points and showed by its performance that only a strong and well integrated London team can lay any claim to superiority.

The leading teams were: Crockford's, K. Konstam, M. Harrison Gray, I. Macleod, J. C. H. Marx, E. P. C. Cotter, J. T. Reese, P. Irwin (non-playing captain);

Leeds: H. Franklin, G. Fell, R. Mercado, A. Kremer, Mrs. A. Kremer, A. O. Craven.

A hand from the first session that proved difficult for the North.

South pairs was the following:

♠ A 8 4 2	
♥ K Q 5	
♦ A Q J 7 5 3	
♣ —	
♠ J 10	♠ K 9 3
♥ J 8 7 4	♥ 9 6 2
♦ 10 6	♦ K 9 4
♣ J 8 5 4 2	♣ K Q 9 7
♠ Q 7 6 5	
♥ A 10 3	
♦ 8 2	
♣ A 10 6 3	

North opens one diamond after two passes, and if South responds one spade it is all too easy to go beyond the game level, for both players have hands that seem potentially strong. At my table, for example, Konstam bid three hearts over one spade, and I said three no-trumps. When he went to four spades I felt I must make a try with my two aces, so I bid five clubs; he bid five diamonds, I five hearts, and he five spades, which I passed. I took the right view of the trump suit, so I just made the contract.

A slight comedy arose from the post-mortem. Norman Squire, sitting out for Lederer's, who were our opponents on the board, looked across the room, said "Who are playing those hands for us? Rose and Rockfelt? That's all right, then," and took out his diary to make a note of our delinquency in reaching a precarious five. Someone hazarded the remark that these were rather awkward holdings, to

which Squire replied :

"Not on Baron. North bids two hearts-over one spade, South bids three no-trumps, and North four spades. This sequence shows a void club, so South passes in sleep."

Boris Schapiro then offered to strike a small wager that, notwithstanding this analysis, Rockfelt and Rose would proceed beyond four spades. With a well assumed air of reluctance at betting on a matter so clearly predestined, Squire accepted. When the time came, the bidding went as foretold up to four spades, but then Rose bid six spades. My license to record this incident was granted only on condition that I made it clear that the player was at fault, not the system.

When this hand was played in the match between Dorset House and Leeds, the Yorkshire bidding was one diamond—two no-trumps — five diamonds. This contract depended on much the same chances as five spades. The Sharples brothers, for Dorset House, bid the same way as Konstantam and myself up to four spades, and then South went to six spades, which was rather precipitous.

Suppose that you are playing Acol and that partner opens three no-trumps, vulnerable, the next player bids four spades, and you hold :

♠ K  
♥ 6 5 2  
♦ A J 10 7 6 3  
♣ 10 4 3

What do you bid? Five clubs, on the grounds that partner's bid is surely based on a long club suit? Ah, clever! But not a master bid, it seems, for a master

bid must surely be eccentric, and this five club bid was made at three tables out of four. This was the full deal :

♠ A	
♥ A 8	
♦ 9 5 2	
♣ A K Q J 7 5 2	
♠ 10 7 4	♠ Q J 9 8 6 5 3 2
♥ K Q J 10 7	♥ 9 4 3
♦ Q 6 3	♦ K
♣ 9 6	♣ 8
♠ K	
♥ 6 5 2	
♦ A J 10 7 6 3	
♣ 10 4 3	

When the bidding went in this way in the match between Crockford's and Lederer's, Rose bid five spades over South's five clubs, North bid six clubs, and then West tried six hearts. The final contract was six spades doubled, 500 to North-South (Crockford's). At the other table the Crockford's West decided that South's five clubs was a rather desperate shot and passed; this, of course, was made, so Lederer's gained two match points.

The tournament reached its critical point when Crockford's, six match points ahead of Leeds, met this team for the last four boards. If the Yorkshire players could reduce this to three points, the match would be a draw and Leeds would win by one victory point. The first hand was a tie. On the second West held :

♠ A 5  
♥ Q 6 2  
♦ A J 10 7 4  
♣ Q J 2

At love all, should West come in over an opening one heart by South? Obviously it is very de-

batable. Franklin passed, at the other table Gray doubled. The double led to a sacrifice of four spades over four hearts, and Crockford's gained four points.

This was perhaps unlucky, but on the next two boards the Leeds team could only blame themselves. They missed a game owing to a bad underbid, and then came this hand:

♠ 10 4		♠ 10 4
♥ A K Q 7		♥ A K Q 7
♦ A 10 5		♦ A 10 5
♣ A J 6 3		♣ A J 6 3
♠ Q J	♠ A K 9 8 7 5 3 2	
♥ J 8 6 4 2	♥ 10 5	
♦ J 3	♦ 9 4	
♣ 10 9 4 2	♣ Q	
♠ 6		
♥ 9 3		
♦ K Q 8 7 6 2		
♣ K 10 8 7		

At game to East-West, North dealt and opened one heart. At my table East bid four spades, and I bid five diamonds as South. All passed, and six were made. Should Macleod, who was North, have raised to six diamonds? That I would have a doubleton spade, missing all the other high cards, was unlikely, but on the other hand there is always danger of bad distribution after a pre-emptive bid. This seemed to be a doubtful result for us, but at the other table East bid three spades over the one heart opening, and South for some reason passed. So did North, and East was one down undoubled.

When this hand was played in the match between the Hamilton and Dorset House, Ellison, North, bid one heart, East one spade, Igel, South, two diamonds, and North two spades. South

bid three diamonds, North four clubs, South five clubs, and North five diamonds. South might well have bid the slam now, but he passed. At the other table, Mrs. Markus opened one club, East bid four spades, and Lady Rhodes five diamonds. She could not raise the clubs, as this pair play the prepared club. Mrs. Markus had, in effect, the same decision to make as Macleod; she bid the slam.

### INTERLUDE

In a recent Gold Cup match a first-class player held the following hand:

♠ A x
♥ A K Q J 9 x
♦ A Q J
♣ K J

He passed throughout the auction, saying only "no bid." Problem: construct a deal on which this could happen and on which the bidding by all the players was reasonable. The actual hand is discussed in Harold Franklin's article "About Bidding."

### CROCKFORD'S CUP

The second round match between Mrs. Fleming, Bruce Parker, Macleod, Schapiro, Reese and Dr. Lee, Booker, Dr. Leist, Meredith, opened in dramatic fashion. This was board one:

South dealt at love all. This was the bidding by Meredith, South, and Dr. Leist, North:

<i>South</i>	<i>North</i>
1 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♥	3 ♠
3 N.T.	4 N.T.
5 ♥	6 ♦
7 ♠	Pass