

# THE LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY

By *NORMAN SQUIRE*

THIS was won by the Lyndhurst Club, L. Tarlo, R. Preston, Dr. Rockfelt, C. Rodrigue and M. Wolach. For the last four years this event has been run as a club championship by the E.B.U. and has been won respectively by Crockford's, the Dorset, Lederer's and the Hamilton. But the E.B.U. recently presented the trophy to the L.C.C.B.A. who have turned it into a London club championship. Eight teams were allowed to participate. This is more than ever before and naturally resulted in the field being somewhat weaker. Nevertheless there was plenty of strength there. In previous years I have campaigned for the event to be kept select with as few teams as possible, but it was as enjoyable as ever.

A great improvement was the move to the Kensington Palace Hotel where, in a beautiful room with fine lighting, the players were unrestricted and at ease. The contrast between these surroundings and the Black Hole of Calcutta conditions under which the Masters' Pairs was recently played could not be greater nor more appreciated. Thanks, therefore, go to the committee of the London C.C.B.A. and to Frank Pitt-Reynolds, their secretary, for this blessing.

The early hands were remarkable for freakishness and the results corresponded. Having played a laydown grand slam in four hearts on the very first board (Board 21) I started off under a

cloud of some slight apprehension, but this was ameliorated later. The first session finished with Lederer's occupying the most promising position, the Lyndhurst being their nearest rivals. Here is the big hand of the session:

Both vulnerable.

♠ None	—————	♠ 5
♥ Q	N	♥ A K 10 9 7
♦ K Q 9 4 3	W E	6 4 3
♣ A K Q J 9	S	♦ A J 7
6 2	—————	♣ 5

Seven clubs or diamonds is there, but a vulnerable sacrifice of seven spades, costing 1,100, is good. Preston and Dr. Rockfelt for the Lyndhurst got the top here in seven diamonds doubled, and Dr. Grosser and Fox for the London International Club on the other side for seven spades doubled. Gray and Miss Shanahan also reached seven diamonds. One pair managed to stop in five diamonds, while Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Durran were unlucky to find that seven hearts was not there against stacked trumps. Much discussion went on to find the right sequence. I think:

	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>
	1 ♣	2 ♥
solid suit	4 ♣	4 ♦
	7 ♣	

is about as good as anything, although the pedant may need confirmation of the heart ace, and insist upon four spades over four diamonds, followed

by five hearts on the way to seven clubs. One hand I liked was this:

♠ 2	N	♠ 9 8 5 3
♥ A K Q 2	W	♥ 6
♦ A 10 5	E	♦ K 9 8
♣ K J 8 6 4	S	♣ A Q 5 3 2

With North opening the bidding it was not so easy for West to cope with the hand. Curiously enough however, East, although not very good, sees his hand getting better the whole time.

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	No	No	Dble.
2 ♥	3 ♣	3 ♠	?

At this stage East is merely wondering how many aces his partner has, for almost any bid is now going to send him to a slam. Rose with the West hand found four spades and then six clubs was a simple answer. But not every pair got there. Konstam retained his dummy-play reputation here:

♠ J 4 3	N	♠ A 8 2
♥ Q 10 8 6 2	W	♥ 7 5 3
♦ 6 4 2	E	♦ A J 8 5
♣ A 10	S	♣ K J 4

This hand looks a real trap. No contract can be made against normal defence. I sat East, and took a rare view to pass, the hand being thrown-in. Having congratulated ourselves on this excellent view we found that the other side had played in one no-trump and made it. Konstam made *two* no-trumps on the East-West cards. How he did it may well be considered the inferential problem for the month.

Good defence of course should beat one no-trump by two tricks for there

simply isn't a sixth trick in the hand for the declarer.

May I suggest to more than one player that he would do a little better if he played simple, solid bridge, instead of looking at his opponent and wondering what the great man is up to now. For normally the great man is doing nothing particularly fiendish; he is probably in a poor contract and hoping the defence will help him. And he is probably in a bad contract slightly more often than most because he has found by profitable experience that people chuck wildly against him for no reason other than self-hypnotism.

The second session saw the Lyndhurst consolidating, the Dorset improving and Lederer's slipping. Coming to the finish there was, as usually in this event, nothing between three teams, the result depending almost upon one board. Most pairs seemed to find it difficult to reach a slam on these hands dealt by West:

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

West bid one spade. Commonly, East forced with three hearts, heard four hearts and started dithering. His force is sub-minimum already; West might be fairly good, but he might easily be horrible; suppose he had opened on some rubbish like:

♠ K 10 9 x x	♥ Q J 10 x
♦ K x	♣ Q x

what then? Even four hearts might fail. The hand of course is far better handled by a simple first-round response. The sequence then becomes:

West	East
1 ♠	2 ♥
3 ♥	4 ♣
5 ♥	6 ♥

or

West	East
1 ♠	2 ♥
4 ♥	6 ♥

with Blackwood in between if desired.

One can always point to several hands of a match and say: "If only—", but those which come near the end naturally appear more vital because of lack of time for recovery. The hand to settle the final issue this time was a low part-score affair, a silly little hand that one would have passed over with a philosophical shrug had it come at an earlier stage. Nevertheless it has interest for the analyst.

	♠ A 10 3		
	♥ A Q J 5 4		
	♦ 8 6 4		
	♣ 3 2		
♠ K J 8 7 4	-----	♠ 5	
♥ 10 8 7 2	N	♥ 9 6 3	
♦ Q	W E	♦ K J 7	
♣ A 8 7	S	♣ K J 10 9	
	-----	6 5	
	♠ Q 9 6 2		
	♥ K		
	♦ A 10 9 5 3 2		
	♣ Q 4		

When the Lyndhurst met Lederer's this hand was played in three diamonds by South at both tables. Pearlstone and Juan were defeated by one trick.

East having mentioned clubs, the defence was two rounds of clubs and the spade ace knocked out. At the other table Dr. Lee also led a club and Schapiro duly played the spade at Trick 3. South played for his only chance, a diamond split: he played ace and then a low diamond. East cashed his trump winners but then failed to read the hand, and played another club. West was now squeezed over the master spade and the heart length.

This result just gave the Lyndhurst a draw and the vital victory point to level their score with that of the Dorset, whom they had beaten. On the split tie, therefore, the trophy went to them. The defence here is, of course, a heart. There is no case for any other card, and a little careful thought should make this apparent. The final leading scores were Lyndhurst 11 v.p., Dorset 11 v.p., Lederer's 10 v.p.

The Dorset Club may count themselves unlucky, for if this hand had had no swing, they would have won.

The remaining clubs were: Hamilton, Crockford's, London, London International, Civil Service.

I gather that there is already another move to extend this event's entry. Once again I plead that this be not done. We already have several trophies which have multiple finals and for which anyone can enter. The Crockford's and the *Daily Telegraph* are examples. Duplication is bad and can only result in loss of prestige.