

Challenge for the cream of teams

THE Lederer Memorial Trophy is one of the prestige events of British bridge.

It is named after Richard Lederer — one of the doyens of English bridge in the Thirties — and his son Tony.

It is competed for annually by top teams such as the Gold Cup winners, the Spring Foursomes winners, the British national team, a top Irish team, a journalists' team and the holders (this year, the "Professionals" — composed of leading rubber bridge players).

As a member of the journalists' team this year, I can assure you that even if we do not win, any hands that appear in the press will be carefully vetted and censored before publication...

It is a sobering thought but 26 years ago I was a member of the



Lederers Club team when this deal came along:

Game all; dealer South

North

S 10
H K J 10 7
D J 10 8 6 4
C A Q 6

West

S 9 7 6
H Q 5 4
D K Q 7
C J 8 4 3

East

S 3 2
H A 9 8 6 3 2
D 5 3
C K 10 2

South

S A K Q J 8 5 4
H none
D A 9 2
C 9 7 5

In a teams match the same hand is played at two tables.

When our team-mates held the North-South cards they, very sensibly, stopped in Four Spades. They were unlucky when their opponents found the perfect defence.

West led a low club, dummy played low, East won with the ten, returned a diamond to West's queen and another club lead meant that declarer had no way of

avoiding four losers in the minor suits to go one off.

At our table I was East and my partner struck the unfortunate lead of the king of diamonds, against a spade contract.

It might have proved a nasty setback, for now declarer had no trouble in drawing trumps, conceding a trick to the queen of diamonds and claiming 12 tricks, but East-West had a fortunate escape.

North-South had bid their way to Seven Spades! You may wonder how they got there.

South opened Two Spades (with very limited values), North gave a positive response in diamonds on his poor suit and a flurry of cue-bids had led to the grand slam without any concern about the gaps in diamonds and clubs.

So at both tables East-West collected 100 points and there was no swing.

■ This year the Lederer is being staged at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club (32 Barkston Gardens, near Earls Court tube station) on Saturday and Sunday, 25 and 26 October — tickets £2 for each of the three sessions.

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