

Bridge

An epigrammatic event

The Lederer Memorial Trophy, an invitation event limited to six teams, attracted a star-studded field containing three former world champions, three former European champions, and the current holders of the Women's World Championship.

Richard Fleet and the London County Contract Bridge Association are to be congratulated on the exemplary organization of a tournament which is a welcome reminder of competition bridge in its hey-day. It is surely no coincidence that there were more spectators at the Young Chelsea Club than at any recent final of the Gold Cup that I can remember.

In addition to the prize for the winning team, there were subsidiary awards for the best played hand, the best defended hand, the best bid hand, and the best printable epigram.

My team-mate Victor Silverstone was judged to have played the best hand, which produced an invaluable swing.
London v Women World Champions. Teams. Game all.
Dealer West

♠ 97	♥ A732	♦ AJ952	♣ 97	♠ A863	♥ 106	♦ Q	♣ J86542				
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>				N	E	W	S	♠ K5	♥ QJ94	♦ 108743	♣ Q10
N	E										
W	S										
♠ QJ1042				♥ K85							
♦ K6				♣ AK3							

Where the Women were North-South, the auction was abrupt.

W	N	E	S
No	No	No	1♣
W	N	E	S
No	4♣	No	No
W	N	E	S
No	--	--	--

Opening lead ♣9

Before I led, South kindly informed me that North had stronger ways of showing a raise to four spades.

Declarer won the ♣A and tried the spade finesse, which

lost to Sheehan's King. The ♥Q was forlornly covered by the ♥K, and the defence had no difficulty in making two hearts, the ♦A, and the ♣K to defeat the contract.

In the other room, Victor Silverstone, South, demonstrated that although his counterpart had admittedly been unlucky, there was a way to thwart the fates. He won the club and returned a diamond to West's ♦A. When West switched to a trump, he rejected the finesse and returned to his hand with the ♣K. He then discarded a heart from dummy on his ♦K before driving out the ♣K.

The merit of Silverstone's line of play was that if the spade finesse was right, then the contract was assured. By playing a diamond, he gave himself an extra chance whenever W... held the ♦A.

Was there an extra risk of running into a club ruff? No. The play to the first trick made it plain that the clubs must be divided two-two, because otherwise East could not afford the luxury of parting with the ♣10.

The final result was: 1st, England, 298 (A. Forrester, K. Stanley, G. Calderwood, R. Smolski); 2nd, London, 295 (C. Dixon, R. Sheehan, I. Rose, V. Silverstone, J. Flint); 3rd, Women World Champions, 285 (Mrs S. Landy, Mrs S. Horton, Miss N. Gardener, Miss P. Davies); 4th, The Masters, 244 (J. T. Reese, B. Schapiro, L. Tarlo, M. Hoffman, J. Amsbury, M. Wlodarczyk).

The award for the best remark went to Terence Reese. Apparently Reese's partner Boris Schapiro had opened the bidding with six clubs, which turned out to be an unsuccessful gambit. "Unlikely to win the brilliancy award for delicate bidding", Reese observed.

Jeremy Flint

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