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LONDON AND MANCHESTER

BRIDGE

G. C. H. FOX

NEXT weekend the Lederer Memorial Trophy will be played at the Young Chelsea Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5. The event, organised by the London County Association, is restricted to teams of the highest class. The following teams are competing:

1—Professionals (holders): D. Edwin, R. Sampson, N. Salway, R. Smolski.

2—"England": A. R. Forrester, J. Pottage, S. J. Lodge, S. Horton.

3—London: V. Silverstone, C.P. Dixon, I. N. Rose, B. Shenkin, R. M. Sheehan, J. Flint, Z. Mahmoud.

4—Ireland: N. Fitzgibbon, A. Mesbur, P. Walshe, D. Jackson.

5—Woolwich Spring Foursomes (winners): G. N. Breskal, A. Calderwood, D. Shek, S. Fishpool, D. J. Greenwood.

6—Journalists: R. A. Priday, C. Simpson, D. Bird, M. Hoffman, P. D. Jourdain, A. M. Hiron.

Presumably the rules allow for a team of seven, as in London.

It is not an everyday occurrence for a top-level pair to go seven down for a penalty of 2,000, but this happened on the following hand last year:

Dealer—South Game All

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

In the match between "England" and Ireland the bidding with G. T. Kirby and J. M. Armstrong North—South was:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	—	2 NT	—
3♣	—	4♦	—
6♦	—	6 NT	—
7♦	Dbl:	7 NT	Dbl:

North's 2 NT was a transfer bid to clubs.

After the bidding misunderstanding everything depended on the opening lead. With the existing holding of ♠K Q 5 it was not difficult to lead ♠K, giving the defence the first seven tricks. But suppose West's spades were ♠K 3 2, what would be led? Against a grand slam in no trumps a lead from an unsupported king would be dangerous and a probable choice would be a heart. South takes East's ♥K with ♥A and plays off seven clubs, discarding ♠9 6 and ♦6 4. West has to find seven discards. He must keep his hearts so he throws ♠K 3 2 and ♦8 7 5 2. This is the position after eight tricks.

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

On the last club South discards ♦9 and West is squeezed, being unable to part with either a heart or a diamond. Then there would be a turnover of over 4,000 points. Seven no trumps doubled and made = 2,490 and seven no trumps down seven = 2,000. At the other table with B. Senior and P. Walshe North—South against A. R. Forrester and S. J. Lodge the bidding was:

South	West	North	East
1♦	—	2♣	2♣
3♣	3♣	5♣	—

East—West did well not to push their opponents into 6♣.

In the match between the Professionals and Gold Cup Winners Irving Rose, sitting East, made a good sacrifice bid of 5♣.

South	West	North	East
1♦	—	2♣	2♣
3♣	4♣	5♣	5♣
Dbl:			

South led a club and the contract was one down, losing 200. At the other table Victor Silverstone bid 5♣ direct over South's 1 NT and scored 620. Times of Sessions are 2 pm and 8 pm next Saturday, and 1.50 on Sunday, October 26. The charge for spectators is £2 per session or £5 for all three. Half price for students and OAPs.

THE Ledierer Memorial Trophy, organized by the London County Association, is probably the most prestigious event in the calendar, being restricted by invitation to 6 teams of the highest class.

This year's event was played in the newly refurbished Young Chelsea Bridge Club whose generous sponsorship is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The prize for the best defended hand was won by John Reardon and Richard Butland who successfully defeated a contract of 2♥.

Dealer East North, South vul:

♠ Q7643			
♥ 1082			
♦ 1087			
♣ A9			5
♠ 82		♠ KJ108	
♥ J543		♥ K	
♦ A43		♦ Q9652	
♣ KJ72		♣ 1064	
♠ A9			
♥ AQ976			
♦ KJ			
♣ Q853			

With John Reardon and Richard Butland (London) East-West against Irving Rose and Barnet Shenkin (Gold Cup Winners) the bidding was:

	South	West	North	East
1♥	—	—	1♠	—
2♣	—	—	2♥	—

West found the good lead of ♥3. With his good holding in clubs it was important to reduce dummy's ruffing power. South took ♥K with ♥A and led ♠K with the object of setting up ♠10 for discard. As the cards lie ♠J would have worked better as East would win with ♠Q, and could not safely play a spade, but ♠K is slightly better as it may be ducked.

West won with ♠A and switched to ♠8 covered by ♠Q, ♠K and ♠A. South next led ♠J to ♠Q and East crashed ♠J, continued with ♠5, ruffed by South with ♥6. Had West over-ruffed with ♥J there would be sufficient entries on the table to establish the fifth spade, so West correctly discarded ♠4. Declarer next led ♥9 to ♥J. The defence having won four tricks (♠AQ, ♥J and ♠J) require two more, this being the position

♠ 76			
♥ 10			
♦ 10			
♣ A9			
♠ —			♠ 10
♥ 54			♥ —
♦ —			♦ 985
♣ KJ72			♣ 106
♠ —			
♥ Q7			
♦ —			
♣ Q853			

West exits with a heart. If

dummy wins with ♥10 South is likely to play either a spade or diamond. If he leads ♠7 covered by ♠10 he must ruff, otherwise a club will be returned. He cannot draw West's ♥4 but will then have to lead a club, losing two tricks. If he plays ♠10, discarding a club, West ruffs with ♥4 and despite having to lead from ♠KJ72 the defence will make one more trick, either in clubs or spades.