

BRIDGE

An element of surprise

The Lederer Memorial, limited to six strong invited teams, has always been one of the most popular fixtures in the calendar.

This year's tournament was held at the elegantly refurbished Young Chelsea Club in London last month. Warwick Pitch, the owner, acted as both host and sponsor.

The leading positions were: 1. Edwin Simpson, Smolski, Selway 318 VPs; 2. Mesbur, Fitzgibbon, Senior, Walshe (Ireland) 300 VPs; 3. Dixon, Silverstone, Rose, Shenkin, Sheehan, Flint 267 VPs.

The result must be considered a surprise, because only Smolski has made his mark on the tournament world at international level.

Even in a strong field, it is sometimes difficult to predict the result at the other table. East-West game. Dealer South.

♠ 1078
♥ 104
♦ A1097
♣ AJ82

	N		
W		E	
		S	

♠ KJ9
♥ KJ8765
♦ KQJ5
♣ —

♠ AQ82
♥ AQ9
♦ —
♣ K76543

♠ 543
♥ 32
♦ 86432
♣ Q109

W	N	E	S
Flint	—	Sheehan	—
D'ble (1)	Red'ble	No (2)	1♥
2♠	No	No	2♦
2♥(3)	3♦	No	3♥(4)
No	No (5)	No	—

Opening lead ♠ 5

1. A doubtful move which may have contributed to the unexpected result. The risk of partner taking one too high in diamonds must be measured against losing the spade suit.

2. With three cards in each club suit it would be a mistake to bid two diamonds.

3. Another dangerous bid, encouraged by North's pass over two clubs.

4. Questionable. Hoping North has no wasted values in clubs.

5. Eminently correct. North's hand has steadily deteriorated as the bidding has progressed.

Declarer took the ♠A, discarding a spade, and finessed the ♥10 to my ♥Q. When I persevered with another club, declarer ruffed in hand. His attempt to cross to dummy with a diamond was frustrated by my void. After ruffing the diamond, I cashed the ♥A and sat back to

wait for the ♠AQ. Declarer's play was based on the reasonable premise that East could well have four hearts because of my informative double. Plus 50 seemed to be a fair score, even if the 5-0 trump break would also defeat three diamonds.

This was the bidding in the other room:

W	N	E	S
—	Silverstone	—	Shenkin
—	—	—	1♥
2♠	No (1)	No	D'ble (2)
2♥	Double	3♣	No
No	D'ble (3)	No	No
No	—	—	—

1. Admirable restraint.

2. The lack of aces, combined with the club void, makes this bid dubious at best.

3. One can only sympathize. How enjoyable to resist the temptation to double two clubs and then have the chance to double three clubs.

Enjoyable until the smoke clears, leaving North-South with only three tricks and East-West with +870 and 13 IMPs.

Jeremy Flint

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