

Buckland's Bridge

by J. P. Buckland

The Lederer Memorial Trophy tournament will be held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32, Barkston Gardens, London S.W.5. today and tomorrow. Spectators are invited.

This deal from last year's competition produced bidding by two international stars sitting west/East which some might consider bizarre.

| | | North | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|--|----------------|--|
| West | | ♠ 7 5 | | East | |
| ♠ 9 3 | | ♥ A 9 7 | | ♠ A Q 10 8 6 4 | |
| ♥ Q J 10 6 5 | | ♦ A 5 4 | | ♥ K 2 | |
| ♦ K Q J 10 9 | | ♣ A K 6 5 4 | | ♦ 7 3 | |
| ♣ 3 | | | | ♣ J 10 2 | |
| | | South | | | |
| | | ♠ K J 2 | | | |
| | | ♥ 8 4 3 | | | |
| | | ♦ 8 6 2 | | | |
| | | ♣ Q 9 8 7 | | | |

N/S vulnerable

East dealt.

| E | S | W | N |
|-----|----|----|--------|
| 2S | NB | 3D | NB |
| 3NT | ND | 4S | Double |

East's opening bid with only ten points was, presumably, a "weak two in the majors" bid. South passed and West bid three diamonds. As South had passed one would have thought that West with only nine points would also pass. (In any event why bid the five card minor before the equally long major?)

East's "three no trumps" is also puzzling. Surely he could not expect West to provide a guard in both hearts and clubs. The same can be said of West's "Four spades". He could reasonably expect his partner to have clubs covered so why go back to spades with only 9 and 3 in his suit? North's double duly brought him 300 points and the most that N/S could expect to make in a club contract would be 60 plus 50 = 110.

The official commentary on this deal, which at the other three tables was played in 2 spades by East and made, was that at this table "E/W had an accident in the bidding"!