

THE LEDERER Memorial Trophy, certainly the strongest invitation teams event regularly played in Britain, takes place next weekend. Most of the top-ranking British players will be competing but not, of course, our national team who will be playing in the World Championships in Jamaica.

They will be joined by leading teams from Ireland and Holland, but the pre-tournament favourites will be Sweden (en route for Jamaica) but exempted from the first round of the World Championships by virtue of having won the European Championship.

This was an interesting hand from last year's event in the match between the winners of the Woolwich Spring Fours and the "Professionals".

Game all; dealer South

♠K Q 4 3 2

♥10 9

♦A K J

♣J 9 6

♠A 6

♠10 7 5

♥Q J 8 6

♥K 7 4 3 2

♦6 5 3 2

♦10

♣K 7 3

♣10 8 4 2

♠J 9 8

♥A 5

♦Q 9 8 7 4

♣A Q 5

Looking at all four hands it seems clear that Four Spades is the best game contract for North-South. If the defenders lead a heart they can come to a trick in the suit but cannot arrange a diamond ruff; if they lead a diamond and organise their ruff declarer's losing heart goes away.

However, Breskal and Calderwood (of the Woolwich team) missed their way. South opened One Diamond, North responded One Spade and South rebid INT. So far, so good, but now North jumped to 3NT to end matters. Three Diamonds would have been a better bid, inviting preference to spades, and leading to the optimum contract.

Against 3NT Selway (for the "Professionals") led ♠6 to the 9, king and ace. I expect that you can see the position — the heart suit is now blocked for the defenders and if declarer simply plays in spades they can take only four tricks.

South started well by leading a spade to the king (which was allowed to hold) but now, feeling that he had successfully stolen a trick, tried the club finesse. It lost and West thankfully took four more winners.

Should declarer have persisted with spades? Against opponents who knew what they were doing (and that is certainly true in events like the Lederer) he might well have worked out that their failure to defeat his contract out of hand could only be because the hearts were blocked.

*Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 (near Earls Court tube); 10 October, 2.00pm and 8.00pm; 11 October, 1.30pm. Tickets available at the door, £2 per session, £5 season, students and OAPS half-price.*

**Alan Hiron**

# The day a policeman forced the pace

THE English team — a combination recruited from our Open, Ladies and Junior teams — won the recent Lederer Memorial Trophy by a convincing margin.

Although the Journalists team could only achieve sixth place, we all got some excellent copy.

To make up our numbers we enlisted Colin Simpson, who holds some distinguished position in the police force (Bridge Correspondent for the *Police Gazette*, we informed the organisers). In partnership with Tony Friday he dived with death on this outing.

West dealt at game all and after two passes Simpson decided that it was time to enliven proceedings with an opening bid of One Spade. South bid a firm Three No-trumps and Friday, as West, pushed on with Four Spades.

As South explained afterwards, he did not mind what his partner did next as long as it was to pass. He had clear plans about what to do to Four Spades. (Seven off doubled is about right but it could easily go eight off

## BRIDGE

North	
S 9 7	
H K 8 3	
D Q 6 4 2	
C K J 10 4	
West	East
S K 10 8 4 2	S 5 3
H Q 6	H 10 7 5 4 2
D J 10 9 3	D 8 7
C 9 8	C 6 5 3 2
South	
S A Q J 6	
H A J 9	
D A K 5	
C A Q 7	

— for a trifling 2300 point penalty).

However, North bid on to Four No-trumps; East felt that he had done enough and, in a quiet rage, South went on to Six No-trumps. It was the same contract that was reached at the other table, although

with less opposition bidding. Now, how should the play go in Six No-trumps?

After the lead of the jack of diamonds there are 10 top winners and a certain eleventh to come in spades. If the spade finesse is right there are 12 tricks in sight, and so this seemed a natural start. But the spade finesse lost and now there were only 11 sure winners.

Both declarers in Six No-trumps did well enough. They started operations with the two top hearts and when the queen fell they had no further problems. Suppose that both opponents had followed low on the top hearts? There are still a lot of chances.

To start with, diamonds may break 3-3. If they do not, then either defender with four or more spades and four or more diamonds is squeezed when the winning clubs are played. Then there is the further chance that East holds the queen of hearts and four diamonds, when again he is in difficulties.

Alan Hiron