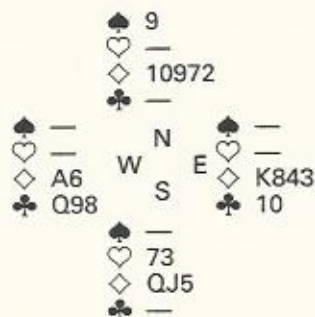


Smolski opened two diamonds, showing either a weak two in hearts or a balanced 21-22. He really didn't expect to play there, but Henry Bethe sensibly judged that two diamonds was likely to be as good a spot as any for his side.

Gullberg led the king of clubs, which was allowed to hold the first trick. Smolski won the second club, cashed the top cards in both major suits, and then exited with a spade to East. Sundelin cashed the queen of hearts and switched to the three of diamonds in this position:



At this stage Smolski found the key play of inserting the jack of diamonds. West won and returned the six of diamonds which was covered by dummy's seven. Now East had three options, none of which was any good. If he played the king and another diamond, South would unblock the queen and win the last three tricks in dummy. If East played the four on the second round of diamonds, declarer could ruff the thirteenth spade and score a further trump trick in dummy. Finally, if East chose to cover the seven of diamonds with his eight, South would win with the queen and ruff a heart on the table. East cannot gain by discarding, and if he over-ruffs he is bound to concede the last two tricks whether he returns his club or his trump.

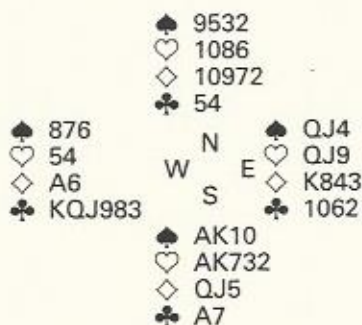
Note that it is essential for South to play a high diamond on the first round. If he plays low, the defenders play three rounds of the suit and East eventually scores the setting trick with the diamond eight.

That was highly competent play by Roman Smolski, but Sundelin missed a difficult chance to defeat the contract. If he switches to a trump before cashing the queen of hearts, he can hold declarer to seven tricks by covering dummy's seven with his eight on the second round.

**T**his year the Lederer Memorial Trophy was won comfortably by the Swedish international team, who stopped off on their way to the Bermuda Bowl at Ochos Rios. The England team came second and Scotland third.

Here is one of the many interesting hands from this competition. In the match between Sweden and London, Roman Smolski found himself playing an unlikely contract.

Game All. Dealer North.



West	North	East	South
Gullberg	Bethe	Sundelin	Smolski
—	Pass	Pass	2♦
All Pass			

