

BRIDGE

LAST YEAR, the Lederer Memorial Trophy was staged at the Young Chelsea Club in west London. It was sponsored by the Y.C. committee and this sponsorship has been renewed. Enlarged and refurbished, the club is now an attractive venue, not only for important finals but also for heats of events like the Gold Cup.

My first hand from the Lederer was played by David Carlisle, and was awarded the prize for being the one played best.

	N	
	♠ K 3	
	♥ J 8	
	♦ 7 5 3	
	♣ A J 8 7 3 2	
W		E
♠ Q J 10 9		♠ 7 5 4 2
♥ 10 6 3		♥ K Q 9 7 4 2
♦ A 2		♦ 8
♣ K Q 9 5		♣ 6
	S	
	♠ A 8	
	♥ A 5	
	♦ K Q J 10 9 6 4	
	♣ 10 4	

With both sides vulnerable, West dealt and opened with one spade. East raised to four spades and South's five diamonds concluded the auction.

West started with the queen of spades. Winning in hand, South led the queen of diamonds, hoping to steal a trick, but West shrewdly took his ace at once and switched to three of hearts.

The declarer took with his ace, drew the last trump and cashed king of spades and ace of clubs.

After this preparatory elimination, South threw East into the lead with dummy's knave of hearts.

East was marked with a wild distribution (he had raised his partner to game with few high-card points) and declarer played for the one chance - that East had started with a singleton club in addition to a singleton diamond.

The age of miracles was not past. East, now void of clubs, was firmly endplayed and forced to concede a ruff discard by a spade or heart return. This enabled South to discard his losing club, while dummy ruffed with his last diamond.

The prize for the best defence was won by Shenken and Silverstone, who held the declarer to seven tricks on this deal.

	N	
	♠ K 10 9 4 2	
	♥ Q 7 6 3	
	♦ J 9	
	♣ K 7	
W		E
♠ Q 8 5		♠ J 7
♥ K 5 4		♥ J 9 8 2
♦ Q 7 3		♦ K 10 6 4
♣ J 9 6 2		♣ A 10 5
	S	
	♠ A 6 3	
	♥ A 10	
	♦ A 8 5 2	
	♣ Q 8 4 3	

South dealt at a love score and bid one no-trump, showing 12-14 points. North said two diamonds, which was a transfer bid. South obediently rebid two hearts and North said two spades, but South decided to say two no-trumps which became the final contract.

West led the two of clubs, dummy's king was played, the ace won and East played back the 10. Winning with his queen, South led a spade and finessed dummy's nine.

East won with the knave and returned a club, enabling his partner to make knave and nine. West exited with the three of diamonds, covered by knave, king, and ace.

The declarer now ran four spade tricks on which West discarded four of hearts and queen of diamonds. Without this vital unblocking play, West would have been thrown in with the diamond queen and forced to lead from his king of hearts, so allowing dummy's queen to make.

As it was, East won the diamond lead with the 10 and a heart switch put the declarer one down. In the other room, North played in two spades and made nine tricks.

E.P.C. COTTER