

BRIDGE

by Dennis Crouch

The Lederer Memorial Trophy was played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club earlier this month, with eight teams taking part. Sweden (287) took the trophy with England (239) second and Scotland (234) third. The event enjoys the continuing and generous sponsorship of YCBC, who also make available their improved and now excellent playing facilities.

I have selected the following deal between Sweden and England for two reasons. First, it contributed greatly to the final placing, and second it illustrates the point I made a few weeks ago about the value of sometimes ducking a finesse, even when this leaves you with an unprotected honour.

Dealer East

N/S game

♠ A Q 9 5 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q 9 5
 ♣ 9 7 6 5 3

♠ J 7 4 2
 ♥ J 3 2
 ♦ J 4 2
 ♣ A Q 10



♠ K 6
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 6
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ K J 8

♠ 10 8
 ♥ A 9 5 4
 ♦ A K 10 8 6
 ♣ 4 2

The bidding at the table where Sandra Landy and John Pottage were playing E/W for England was as follows:

| E | S | W | N |
|-----|-----|----------|-----|
| 1 H | 2 D | 2 H | Db! |
| 3 H | NB | NB | 3 S |
| NB | 4 S | All pass | |

Against the contract of four spades by North, John Pottage led the king of hearts which declarer won with the ace and ran his ten of spades to East's king. A heart was continued and now declarer was able to ruff, return to dummy with the ace of diamonds, draw trumps and run his diamonds for ten tricks.

See what happens if East ducks the first spade finesse. Declarer cannot now clear the trumps without losing the lead and conceding three tricks in the club suit.

At the other tables, Sally Horton, the England South, felt unable to compete on her marginal hand, and so the Swedes were able to play in a comfortable contract of two hearts making an overtrick.

There were prizes galore, even one for the most humorous incident, won by Sandra Landy. When enquiring what her opponent's discards meant, and being told odd-even, she asked for elucidation; but she cut short the tedious details by saying "It doesn't matter, I can't remember what he played anyway!"