

BRIDGE NOTES

Lederer's best bid

The reasons for the tremendous success of the recent Lederer Memorial Trophy are not difficult to pin-point: Barry Rigal's indefatigable enthusiasm in assembling an attractive field headed by Sweden, the European Champions, with teams representing England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, North America, London and Woolwich, and the generous support of the event by the Young Chelsea Club, which included giving free use of the playing area, together with the encouragement that sponsorship will continue, which will ensure the future of one of the most attractive events in the country to play in.

The Young Chelsea, by arranging for major refurbishment of the premises, will have a venue with strong claims to be one of the most pleasant in the country and ideal for staging heats of the Gold Cup, etc. There was a satisfying increase in the number of spectators, many of whom admired this — the "Best-Bid Hand" of the tournament by Hans Gothe and Tommy Gullberg, of Sweden — sitting West-East at Game All, dealer South — in their match against Ireland.

Barry reported:

	N		
	♠ K 8 3		
	♥ 8 7 3		
	♦ 6 5 4 3		
	♣ 7 5 2		
W		E	
♠ Q 10 9 4		♠ —	
♥ 10 9 2		♥ A Q J 4	
♦ A 8		♦ Q J 10 7	
♣ K 10 8 4		♣ A Q J 9 3	
	S		
	♠ A J 7 6 5 2		
	♥ K 6 5		
	♦ K 9 2		
	♣ 6		
S	W	N	E
1S	pass	pass	Dble
pass	2C(1)	pass	3S(2)
pass	4D(3)	pass	4H(4)
pass	5C	pass	6C

all pass

1. Natural, with values; 2. Splinter; 3. Suitable hand, with 1st and 2nd round diamond control; 4. Cue bid.

"The difficulty of bidding this excellent slam after an opposition opening bid is highlighted by the fact that only the Swedish pair, Gothe and Gullberg, got even close to it. Their systemic methods are to play a negative response of 1NT in this position and East could just splinter in support of clubs, and then (on receipt of what he knew to be a diamond cue bid) bid the slam in the expectation of it being no worse than one of two finesses: +1370 to Sweden.

"At the other table, Ireland's South played in 2S doubled for E-W to emerge +500."

"Sweden won this prestigious tournament by 287 to England's 239."

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