

BRIDGE

R A PRIDAY

Who was to blame?

Dealer West Love All

♠ 9 ♥ A J 9 8 7 5 ♦ 9 7 5 3 ♣ 9 8	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td> </td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 10 8 6 5 ♥ K Q 6 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ A 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										

♠ Q 7 4 3 2
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ K 7 5 3 2

♠ A J
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ A K Q J 10
 ♣ Q J 10 6

Bidding

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

THE Lederer Memorial Trophy, which was staged and sponsored recently by the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, has been Britain's strongest week-end team championship for over three decades. This year three useful foreign teams were invited and it says much for the quality of the play that Scotland, the 1989 Camrose champions, finished in last position. These were the leaders:-

1 Sweden (holders)	287
2 England	250
3 London	227
4 Ireland	198

The above deal proved difficult for the defence when the strong hand became declarer after a multi sequence.

Not wishing to open either black suit, West led ♦4. South won with ♦10 and ran ♥10 to East's ♥Q. Hoping that his partner held a diamond honour, East returned ♦8 so declarer won ♦A and led ♥2. When West discarded ♣2, declarer played ♥7 from dummy and East took ♥K.

After his partner's discard, East knew that declarer held ♠A. He therefore switched to ♣4, hoping to give declarer a guess if he held ♣K J. Declarer covered with ♣10 and West won with ♣K and had to decide which suit to return. Eventually he played a spade so declarer won ♠A, ruffed a spade, drew trumps and discarded dummy's losing club on the long diamond.

Who was to blame? I believe East was optimistic when I returned ♣4, rather than ♣. West, however, had two chances. First he should have discarded unequivocal ♣7 on the second round of trumps; then he should have realised that, if declarer held ♠A and ♠K, he would have gone up with ♥A and immediately returned dummy's single spade.