

Bridge

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THE CONTEST for the Richard Lederer Memorial Trophy is always an interesting and exciting event. Eight invited teams compete and, as might be expected when there is such a strong field, the leader board is constantly changing. This year's competition was won in convincing style by England, but I liked the Scottish bidding on the following board, even though the final contract was lucky to make. South dealt with East-West vulnerable.

North			
♠ A Q 10 8 3			
♥ Q 7			
♦ K 4 3			
♣ A 3 2			
West		East	
♠ K J 9 5		♠ 7 4	
♥ J		♥ A 6 2	
♦ 7 2		♦ 10 9 8 6 5	
♣ Q 10 8 7 5 4		♣ K J 9	
South			
♠ 6 2			
♥ K 10 9 8 5 4 3			
♦ A Q J			
♣ 6			
South	West	North	East
4H NB	NB NB	6H	NB NB

Declarer had some work to do after an opening diamond lead, but with the king of spades favourably placed and the jack of hearts appearing on the first round, he could not go wrong. At the other table, the Polish South opened with the equivalent of a three level pre-empt, and North-South did not

look beyond game.

I was very disappointed by the defence put up by two experts on the following deal:

South dealt; love all.

North			
♠ 10 7 6			
♥ Q 10 7 5 3			
♦ 7			
♣ A 7 3 2			
West		East	
♠ Q J 8 5 4 3 2		♠ A K 9	
♥ —		♥ A J 8 4 2	
♦ Q 10 4		♦ A 3 2	
♣ 10 6 5		♣ 8 4	
South			
♠ —			
♥ K 9 6			
♦ K J 9 8 6 5			
♣ K Q J 9			
South	West	North	East
1D	3S	NB	4S
4NT	Dble	NB	NB
5C	Dble	NB	NB
NB			

West led a spade, and declarer ruffed and led a small heart to dummy's queen. When East won with the ace, I began to feel rather sorry for South. If East returns a spade, declarer ruffs and plays a diamond, whereupon West wins and switches to a trump. South wins, ruffs a diamond in dummy and finesses the nine of hearts, but West ruffs and returns his last trump. Thus defence restricts declarer to seven tricks

At the table, however, the defence was far from ruthless. East captured the queen of hearts with the ace and returned a small heart for his partner to ruff. West ruffed and dutifully switched to a diamond, and East won with the ace and returned another heart. West ruffed, but that was the end. One diamond ruff in dummy was sufficient to establish South's long suit, and he had no more losers.