

25/2/88

## BRIDGE

BRIDGE players are notoriously weak on geography. The "European" Championships include teams that, in my schooldays, I would have described as coming from Asia Minor or North Africa. The news that a Polish team is stopping off in London to participate in the Lederer Memorial Trophy during the weekend of ~~22~~ October 1-2 *en route* (sic) for the Olympiads starting in Venice the following weekend does not surprise me, but suggests that atlases rather than trophies should be awarded to the leading teams.

This was a deal from an old Lederer event on which the result of the contract was in doubt until the closing stages.

Game all; dealer West.

North	
♠874	
♥J10	
♦Q1083	
♣K542	
West	East
♠KQJ10965	♠none
♥32	♥A987654
♦J975	♦K62
♣none	♣J97
South	
♠A32	
♥KQ	
♦A4	
♣AQ10863	

West dealt and opened Three Spades. After two passes South had an awkward decision. Three No-trumps would have worked

well but he chose a cautious Four Clubs which North, with little excuse, raised to Five.

West started, naturally enough, with the king of spades and East misjudged matters when he decided to discard. If he had ruffed, cashed the ace of clubs and exited peacefully with a trump or a club, the contract would have had no chance. As it was, declarer won, drew trumps in three rounds ending on the table (carefully keeping ♣3 as a possible entry to dummy) and led ♥J.

With the mistaken idea that South might be faced with a guess, East played low and declarer won. He got off lead with another heart and now East, on winning with the ace, had a new problem. Should he concede a ruff and discard (which would be immediately fatal) or open the diamond suit?

He got that one right when he led a low diamond. Declarer gleefully played low, so avoiding a diamond loser, but had no way of by-passing his two losing spades and had to go one off.

Declarer's only real chance was to find West with exactly ♦J9xx. Suppose he wins East's diamond return with the ace, continues with ♦4 and finesses dummy's eight? Now whatever East chooses to return gives South his eleventh trick.

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