

Monday 31st October

BRIDGE

By Terence Reese

K J 4
J
J 10 3 2
A K Q J 8

2
10 9 7 6
9 7 5
10 9 6 4 3

A 9 6 5
K 8 4
A K 6 4
5 2

Q 10 8 7 2 3
A Q 5 3 2
Q 8
7

Dealer East Love all

The Rixxxx Lederer Cup is contested by eight first-class teams, but this year the team described as England, consisting of Flint-Sheehan, Lodge-Horton, left the rest of the field at the post.

This was one deal where the extra touch of class was manifested. When South played in Four Spades, Sheehan, ~~West~~, led the 7 of diamonds. In general, I don't care for this lead of the middle card from three small, but it provided an opportunity here for a clever trick. When East played the king and ace of diamonds, West followed the 7 with the 5, creating the impression that he had begun with a doubleton. When East played a third round South ruffed high, and then East captured the first round of spades and led his fourth diamond. Not knowing the trump distribution, South ruffed ~~high~~ again and now East has the long trump.

At another table Victor Silverstone met the same defence and had reason to ~~mix~~ place West with a doubleton, ^{diamond}. He ruffed high but then played three rounds of clubs. East discarded a heart - best defence - and so did the declarer. After ace of hearts and a heart ruff another high was led from the ~~third~~ table. ^{East} South ruffed with the ace of spades and led a fourth diamond, but Silverstone had read the ~~mix~~ distribution

- and
14-10-30-8
of trump

Tuesday 1st November

BRIDGE

By Terence Reese

	A Q J 8 5	
	A Q 6 5	
	5 2	
	Q 8	
10 4 3		9 7 2
10 9 2		J 7 3
K 8 3		7 4
J 7 4 2		10 9 6 5 3
	K 6	
	K 8 4	
	A Q J 10 9 6	
	A K	

Dealer West Game all

Partly, perhaps, because their much of their bidding is incomprehensible, the Polish ~~tendix~~ players present a rather serious impression at the table. But on this deal from the Lederer Cup Szymanaski played a little joke on the British women's team.

The North-South combination of Sandra Landy and Michele Brunner bid their way to ~~Seven Diamonds~~. Seven Diamonds. At rubber bridge it would be unsound to reach a grand slam when missing the king of trumps, but in team play it is not necessarily wrong, especially, if your team is behind. There are ~~some~~ many top cards in the North-South hands ~~sixt~~ that it is easy to overestimate them.

West led a heart. The declarer won in dummy and finessed the queen of diamonds. Szymanaski played low as though going to his own funeral. Her hopes raised, the declarer crossed to dummy for another finesse, but this time the king appeared.

Which do you think is the better contract - Seven Diamonds or 7NT? The n trump contract is better for two reasons: you escape the slight possibility of a ruff, and you also escape the danger of losing a trick to East's possible K x x x of diamonds. You may think that there might be a possibility of a trump-reducing coup, but in fact there are not quite enough entries to the dummy.