

BRIDGE

The tournament organiser, Christine Duckworth, reports a highly successful Lederer Memorial Trophy, which was sponsored by the T. G. R. Club and played at the Young Chelsea Club on September 7/8.

"The result was very close this year. London, in fact, led throughout the competition whilst Ireland had a much slower start. The draw could not have been better. The two teams were scheduled to meet each other on Vu-Graph in the last round, which they entered with London nine points ahead.

"Ireland just did enough to take them into the lead. There weren't many hands of note, but the most interesting was undoubtedly board 27.

"David Burn's account of this deal and how he might have done better on it shows he is only too well aware that had he made the contract, London would have won overall!"

Love all, dealer South

N			
♠	Q J 10 9 8 4		
♥	A J 8 5 3		
♦	4		
♣	A		
W		E	
♠	6 5 3	♠	A 7
♥	10 6 2	♥	K 7
♦	A K Q 10	♦	J 8 6 2
♣	8 7 4	♣	Q 10 9 5 3
		S	
		♠	K 2
		♥	Q 9 4
		♦	9 7 5 3
		♣	K J 6 2

Closed Room

S	W	N	E
Fitzgibbon	Rigal	Mesbur	Czerniewski
pass	pass	1♣	pass
1NT	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	pass	pass	pass

Open Room

S	W	N	E
Burn	Boland	Price	Walshe
pass	pass	1♣	pass
1NT	pass	2♣(1)	pass
2♥	pass	3♥	pass
4♥	pass	pass	pass

(1) Hearts

"In the Closed Room, Peter Czerniewski did well to lead a diamond, and the defence played two rounds. Declarer, Adam Mesbur, ruffed in hand, led a spade, ducked to dummy's king, and took a losing heart finesse. Another diamond was returned, reducing declarer to two trumps. He went for his only chance by knocking out the ace of spades, ruffing the diamond return, cashing the ace of hearts and playing spades, hoping that East would have three hearts. In this case, East would have to ruff one of the spades, whereupon dummy would overruff and Mesbur could return to his hand with the ace of clubs for the rest of the spades. This plan failed when West had the third trump, and Ireland were one down after a good defence by Czerniewski.

"In the other room, London declared the hand from the South side after a conventional auction. It was easier for West to lead a diamond, and Rory Boland did so, continuing the suit at trick two. Declarer ruffed in dummy and led the queen of spades. It was very hard for Pat Walshe, sitting East, to duck this, which would be fatal if declarer had a small singleton. So Walshe won and forced dummy again with a diamond — but declarer was now in a winning position:

N			
♠	J 10 9 8 4		
♥	A J 8		
♦	—		
♣	A		
W		E	
♠	6 5	♠	7
♥	10 6 2	♥	K 7
♦	10	♦	J
♣	8 7 4	♣	Q 10 9 5 3
		S	
		♠	K
		♥	Q 9 4
		♦	9
		♣	K J 6 2

"The lead was in North, declarer having lost two tricks. All that was needed was to play the jack of hearts from dummy. Obviously East must win, but the fourth diamond can now be ruffed in dummy, the ace of hearts cashed, a spade played to the king, the last trump drawn, and dummy re-entered with the ace of clubs. Alas for London, South cashed the ace of hearts before playing the jack — a fatal error, as Walshe demonstrated by winning and returning a club. Now declarer could not handle the communications, and a trick had to be lost to West's ten of hearts.

"In passing, it should be said that both Souths could have won the board for their side during the auction — by bidding four of a minor, inviting North to convert to four hearts with 5-5 in the majors but to four spades with his actual shape. This was not so easy in the Irish auction, where four of a minor could be read as a slam try in hearts, but the London South should certainly have made the right call. Lest you should feel that this piece is a trifle hard on London's South player, rest assured that he fully endorses every word. But then, I would, wouldn't I?"

Eric Bowtell

*The Oxford Times
4th October 1991*