

Smart play by Robson

By Tony Forrester

Dealer South, E/W vulnerable

♠ 6 5 2
♥ A K Q 8 7
♦ Q 10 8
♣ 9 7

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

♠ K Q 9 7 4
♥ -
♦ K 6 4
♣ A K 6 3 2

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♦	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Contract 4♠

Declarer South

Opening Lead ♦A

THE Lederer Memorial Trophy is traditionally held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in Earl's Court. I mention this because without the co-operation and sponsorship of Warwick Pitch, the club's owner, this major event would not take place.

On today's deal, Andrew Robson, partnering Zia Mahmood in the "All Stars" team (something that can prove to be a dubious privilege), continued his fine form of late by steering home a tricky 4♠ contract.

The auction followed classical lines with South able to describe his black suiter at a comfortable level. This had been brought about by opening 1♣, rather than 1♠ (which seems to be the current trend).

North arrived at the crossroads when his partner continued with 3♠. With all his values in the red suits, he might have been forgiven for trying 3NT, but Zia showed his faith in Robson's play. Quite right!

West began well by cashing ♦A and continuing diamonds for East to ruff. A club went to the king; South then plonked down ♠K which was collected by East. When another club was played, declarer had to decide what to do.

He had two lines available. First, simply lead ♠Q and hope the suit breaks. Failing that, he could ruff a club, cash ♥A K and lead a spade to ♠9. One approach works if the remaining spades are 1-1, the other if East has ♠10 8 left.

Unerringly, Robson chose the latter to chalk up his contract.

● The London team led by Glyn Liggins overtook the team led by Jeremy Dhondy, of Middlesex, in the last stanza at Solihull to win the Second Division of Britain's Premier League and earn promotion, writes Patrick Jourdain, Bridge Correspondent.

Liggins partners Joe Fawcett and their team-mates were Brian Callaghan and David Burn. Scores are added through the 336 deals played during the round robin.

1, G Liggins (London) +227; 2, J Dhondy (Middlesex & Cardiff) +220; 3, C Small (London) +92; 4, V Silverstone (Middlesex) -20; 5, Y Frosztega (Sussex) -45; 6, F Kurbalija (Cardiff) -103; 7, H Dhondy (Middlesex) -177; 8, M Ash (Home Counties) -289.

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