

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE LEDERER Memorial Trophy is a high-class teams event played every November at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. It was won this year by Zia Mahmood's "All Stars" (Andrew Robson, Gunnar Hallberg, and Colin Simpson). The prize for the best defended hand went to Bernard Teltscher and Tony Priday, playing for the President's team. Consider the problem from East's point of view:

Dealer E ♠ J4
E/W vul ♥ 3
IMPs + ♦ AJ84
Point-a-Board ♣ AQJ1043

N	♠ A8
W	♥ AQ97542
E	♦ 92
S	♣ 87

W	N	E	S
-	-	1 H	1 S
2 D	3 C	Pass	3 H
Pass	3 S	Pass	4 S
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South.
Lead: king of diamonds

The declarer wins the first diamond in dummy, with you playing the nine. That is the correct card - when the strength in a suit is known, a defender should show his length.

At trick two the jack of spades is led from dummy, you duck and declarer also plays low. West wins with the queen and switches to the five of clubs, won by the ace in dummy with declarer following

with the six. Declarer plays dummy's last trump and you win with the ace, all following. Now what do you do?

When Tony Priday was East, he deduced South was likely to hold four clubs. With a hand with at most three kings that was the only explanation for his strong bid of Three Hearts. So Priday could see that he could give East a club ruff. But before doing so he cashed the ace of hearts. This was the full deal:

<p>♠ J4 ♥ 3 ♦ AJ84 ♣ AQJ1043</p> <p>♠ Q32 ♥ J86 ♦ KQ10765 ♣ 5</p>	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠ A8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥ AQ97542</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦ 92</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">S</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣ 87</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠ K109765 ♥ K10 ♦ 3 ♣ K962</p>	N	♠ A8	W	♥ AQ97542	E	♦ 92	S	♣ 87
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That was one off, and you might say "So what?". But at another table where the final contract was Four Spades, the first four tricks were the same. However, East then played his second club immediately, rather than cashing the ace of hearts first. Thus after ruffing the club West had to decide whether to play a heart or to attempt to cash a diamond. He did the latter, taking the view that as East had not cashed the ace of hearts he did not have it. Priday removed that trap for his partner.