

THE LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY

By PHILLIP ALDER

SINCE the death of Tony Lederer, the Richard Lederer Trophy has been renamed and restyled. Six teams were invited to play:

1. London: M. J. Flint, D. J. Greenwood, Z. Mahmoud, R. A. Friday, I. N. Rose.

2. Masters: B. Schapiro, A. Dormer, N. Gardener, A. Hiron, M. Hoffman, J. T. Reese, L. Tarlo.

3. Eastbourne Spring Fours Winners: M. Dilks, C. Bishop, R. Butland, P.H. Collins, J. L. Reardon, A. M. G. Thompson.

4. Gold Cup Winners: A. P. Sowter, J. Amsbury, T. Cope, S. Lodge, M. Nardin, A. Woo.

5. The Holders: B. Shenkin, V. Goldberg, P. Jourdain, V. Silverstone.

6. Home Counties: W. J. Pencharz, R. S. Brock, P. Lester, I. Panto, J. & R. Sharples.

The Home Counties team only had Pencharz and Brock available for the Saturday evening session and so Rowlands and Rimington stepped in to fill the breach. The Holders had more serious problems, Shenkin and Goldberg were fog-bound at Glasgow airport! Chris Dixon and Peter Czerniewski were co-opted, not knowing for how long they would be required. It turned out to be for

most of the first session as the Scots arrived at about a quarter to five.

The scoring method used was one favoured by good teams but too rarely used in this country. Each team played three separate matches of six boards against each other team. Twenty victory points were at stake in each match. The first twelve were obtained by using point-a-board scoring, two points being awarded for winning a board (that is, just obtaining more points than your opponents on the hand), though a ten point difference was counted as a tied board, scoring one point for each team. The further eight v.p. were allocated dependent upon the actual net i.m.p. difference in the match, 22 i.m.p. being required for the full eight v.p.

It was intended to play three sessions of five rounds, but there was an accident on Saturday evening when two sets of boards were put into play for one round. This meant that comparison of only three boards was possible. This match was washed out and an extra round added to the Sunday afternoon session to compensate. One of these boards resulted in a very unusual occurrence. It had been agreed before-hand to present three awards, one each for the best

bid, best defended and best played hand. One of these was a grand slam and Tim Cope and Al Woo were given the bidding prize by adjudicator Jack Marx for getting there using natural methods. So they won the prize with an auction on a hand that did not even count in the final analysis!

Dealer North.

♠ A K 5 3

♥ 6

♦ A K 8 4

♣ A 7 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 10 6

♥ A 4 2

♦ Q J 9 2

♣ K Q 6

North	South
Cope	Woo
1 ♦	3 NT
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♣	5 ♥
5 ♣	6 ♣
6 ♥	7 ♦
No	

This non-round was also very aggravating for the Holders. They had obtained two grand slam swings in those three boards! Patrick Jourdain and Victor Silverstone won a commendation for the Multi for

their bidding of the above hand, which was:

North	South
Silverstone	Jourdain
2 ♦(a)	2 NT(b)
4 ♦(c)	4 ♥(d)
4 ♠(e)	5 ♥(f)
6 ♥(g)	7 ♦
No	

(a) Multi.

(b) Asking for definition.

(c) Four-one-four-four shape, 17 22 points.

(d) Range enquiry.

(e) 17-18 points.

(f) Asking for controls.

(g) Eight. (Ace 2, king - 1.)

Jourdain was able to write down Silverstone's hand exactly for the opposition.

This exciting deal was another seven diamonds contract in the match between London and the Holders.

East-West game; dealer South.

♠ Q 10 8 2

♥ K 9 6 5 4

♦ 2

♣ 10 7 4

♠ A 9 6

♥ A Q J 7 2

♦ A K 6 3

♣ Q

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J 3

♥ None

♦ Q J 9 7 5 4

♣ A K 3 2

♠ 7 5 4

♥ 10 8 3

♦ 10 8

♣ J 9 8 6 5

In one room David Greenwood and Tony Priday had a smooth auction to the top spot.

<i>West Greenwood</i>	<i>North Silverstone</i>	<i>East Priday</i>	<i>South Jourdain</i>
			No
1 ♠	No	2 ♠	No
3 ♠	No	4 ♠	No
4 ♠	No	5 NT	No
7 ♠	No	No	No

As a reverse of two spades would have been forcing, the unnecessary jump to three spades agreed diamonds and guaranteed a singleton club. Four spades confirmed the ace of spades and East was left with no problem.

In the other room London had Irving Rose and Zier Mahmoud playing and these two have never been known to pass throughout an auction, not even when the opponents have seven no-trumps lay-down!

<i>West Goldberg</i>	<i>North Rose</i>	<i>East Shenkin</i>	<i>South Mahmoud</i>
			No
1 ♠	1 ♠	2 ♠	No
2 ♠	No	3 ♠	No
4 ♠	No	5 NT	No
7 ♠	No	No	7 ♠
No	No	Dble.	Redble.
No	7 ♠	Dble.	No
No	No		

Note that not only does Mahmoud decide to save but also he very carefully gives an S.O.S. redouble of seven hearts offering Rose choice between seven spades and seven no-trumps!

The defence slipped a trick and only got the contract ten down, the 1900 penalty costing the Holders 6 i.m.p. When you are sure the opponents are in a lay-down vulnerable grand slam, you can afford to be eleven off in your save to show a profit.

The auctions were not without interest at the other tables where there was Acol against Strong Club, though Richard Butland was up to his usual tricks at one table.

Spring Fours v. Home Counties:

<i>West J. Sharples</i>	<i>North Dilks</i>	<i>East R. Sharples</i>	<i>South Butland</i>
			1 NT!
Dble.	2 ♠	3 ♠	No
4 ♠	No	4 ♠	No
4 ♠	No	6 ♠	No
7 ♠	No	No	No

Even though Butland was a point stronger than he usually is for a no-trump at favourable vulnerability, the Sharples displayed their normal expertise in bidding the grand slam.

Note that West did not fall into the sucker trap of thinking that North had also psyched and that East wanted to play in hearts.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Reardon</i>	<i>Pen- charz</i>	<i>Thomp- son</i>	<i>Brock</i>
1 ♣(a)	2 ♠(b)	3 ♠(c)	No
3 NT	No	4 ♠	No
4 ♠	No	5 ♣	No
5 ♣	No	5 NT	No
7 ♠	No	No	No

(a) 17+ points.

(b) Both majors.

(c) Four or more controls.

Gold Cup v. Masters:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Ams- bury</i>	<i>Tarlo</i>	<i>Sowter</i>
1 ♠	1 ♣	2 ♠	No
2 ♣	No	3 ♣	No
3 ♠	No	3 ♣	No
4 NT	No	6 ♣	No
6 ♠	No	No	No

Six clubs showed one ace and a void. As West took control of the auction the partnership was not in a position to bid the grand slam with certainty.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Schap- iro</i>	<i>Nardin</i>	<i>Hoff- man</i>
1 ♣	No	3 ♣	No
4 ♠	No	4 ♠	No
4 ♣	No	5 ♣	No
5 NT	No	6 ♣	No
6 ♠	No	No	No

One club was strong and then

trouble arose. Three spades used to show five five in the minors but recently Nardin and Lodge had amended it to six-four. However, Lodge was worried that Nardin had forgotten as they play so infrequently these days. Then a wheel came off when Nardin bid six clubs, showing no top diamond honour when he in fact had one.

I think that these auctions exhibit one point a lot of people have made over the years. It is not so important what system you use as long as you do know it thoroughly.

After the first five rounds it was very close with Dilk's team just ahead. The next four rounds saw the Home Counties team move one point in front of the Holders, with London a further six points behind. The Holders fell back and the lead oscillated between London and the Home Counties until the last round, which London started two points clear. They had to play the Gold Cup winners, while Home Counties were opposed by the Holders. The six boards were very exciting.

On the first Sheehan took what could have been called a courageous view if it had worked but which was in fact a disaster. He held ♠ A Q 9 8 3 ♠ J 6 ♠ None ♣ K Q 6 4 3 2. Partner, at favourable vulnerability, opened one diamond, which could be short as they play five-card majors.

He responded two clubs and Flint bid two diamonds. This did not guarantee diamonds and was forcing! He could have held four-four-three-two or four-four-four-one distribution, and if the former a hand that suggested suit rather than no-trump play. Sheehan bid two spades and now Flint finally admitted to some diamonds with three diamonds. What would you bid now? I imagine you would have gone on with three spades. Correct, you get to your lay-down four spades contract. Sheehan *passed* and the contract went two down. However, he was lucky. At the other table Amsbury opened one no-trump and Sowter bid two hearts, transfer, on these cards. Amsbury bid two spades and now Sowter jumped to four clubs, which is a slam-try showing two good suits. His hand is not worth this bid but he would have got away with it with most people. Amsbury, though, jumped to five spades holding ♠ 10 7 6 ♥ A 8 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 5 ♣ J 5 and that was one too high on the lie of the cards. 2 i.m.p. to the Gold Cup team.

In the other key match both pairs bid to four spades just making.

The next board was an excellent seven clubs contract on 25 working points that was lay-down with the actual lie of the cards. Both Flint-Sheehan and Amsbury-Sowter had good auctions to reach it for a flat

board. In the Holders v. Home Counties match Shenkin-Goldberg also got there but Pencharz-Brock had a major accident when they stopped in four spades for a lost board and 16 i.m.p. away.

The third board was a flat three no-trumps all round the room. The fourth was a six diamonds contract, reached in all the key matches.

The penultimate board was one on which neither side could make much, and this was the final deal:

Love all; dealer East.

♠ Q 6 4
♥ A K 10 8 4 2
♦ 9 3 2
♣ 4

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i> <i>Shee-</i>
<i>Nardin</i>	<i>Flint</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>han</i>
2 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♦	1 ♠
No	Dble.(a) 3 NT	No	No
No	4 ♣	No	4 ♦
No	4 ♥	No	No
Dble.	No	No	No

(a) Shows a heart suit and spade tolerance.

Probably Flint was right to save as it is quite likely that Sheehan would have led a spade rather than a heart against three no-trumps. Lodge led the king of diamonds and switched to a club. Nardin overtook the ten with the knave to play his other diamond. However, East persevered with a second club. Flint ruffed and ruffed his diamond in the dummy, over-ruffed by West. Nardin returned a low club and Flint discarded a spade, East ruffed and that was two down.

The auction started similarly in the other room but then took a more optimistic turn from the East-West point of view.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Mah-</i>	<i>Ams-</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Sowter</i>
<i>moud</i>	<i>bury</i>	1 ♠	1 ♠
2 ♣	Dble.(a)	2 NT	No
3 NT	4 ♥	No	No
4 NT!	No	No	No

(a) As above.

Sowter led the nine of hearts to the knave and king. Amsbury returned the six of spades, seven, knave and five. Now the clearcut heart return—North must have the ace—takes the contract five off. However . . . Sowter played back a *low* spade, contract made with an overtrick! That was 4 i.m.p. to London and a 10-10 draw in victory points.

Home Counties were left with the daunting task of having to gain at

least 18 i.m.p. on the last board to win the tournament. These were the auctions:

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>J.</i>	<i>Silver-</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>Jour-</i>
<i>Sharples</i>	<i>stone</i>	<i>Sharples</i>	<i>dain</i>
		1 ♠	1 ♠
2 ♣	2 ♥	3 ♠	No
No	3 ♣	No	No
No			

The defence started with three rounds of diamonds. Jourdain ruffed the last of these with the eight of spades and West over-ruffed with the ten. He returned the five of spades, six, seven and knave. Now declarer mis-guessed when he led a heart to the ace and a low spade from the dummy. He was hoping for a doubleton king so that he could set up the hearts and return to the dummy with the queen of spades. When that did not materialise he was two down.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
<i>Gold-</i>	<i>Pen-</i>	<i>Shenkin</i>	<i>Brock</i>
<i>berg</i>	<i>charz</i>	1 NT	No
3 ♣(a)	No	3 NT	No
No	No		

(a) Good suit, non-forcing.

Naturally Brock led a spade and so Shenkin made an overtrick, 8 i.m.p. to the Holders and a win by 14-6.

So the event organised by London had been won by the London team!