

THE LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY

There are only two weekend events that get the experts to turn out in force, the Spring Foursomes and the Lederer. The latter is an invitation tournament for six teams, the Holders from the previous year, a London team (the L.C.C.B.A. organises the event), a team called the Masters, but affectionately known as the Golden Oldies, and three teams that have won major events during this past year. They were the Gold Cup holders and the teams that won the northern and southern sections of the Spring Foursomes.

Each team played two separate nine board matches against the other five teams. In each match 40 victory points were at stake. Eighteen of these were decided on a point-a-board basis. If the board was flat on i.m.p. scoring then each team received one point, otherwise the team that had gained was awarded two points. The other 22v.p. were decided by a straight i.m.p. to v.p. conversion. This is an admirable scoring system that rewards good play. However, I feel that the point-a-board percentage is too high. It would be better to have eighteen v.p., as in the actual event, but 42 v.p. available on the overall score, giving a total of 60v.p. per match. The trouble with the actual scale used was that overtricks became very significant. This resulted in a slow rate of play. With my suggested division of the points the overtricks would become less important, and I think that the rate of play would increase, to the benefit of all concerned, players, administrators and spectators.

This aspect might have affected the outcome of the event. With two rounds remaining the Gold Cup team enjoyed a reasonable lead over the Holders. Then these two teams met. In one room, where Culbertson and Bennett were opposed by Calderwood and Alder, only six of the nine boards were played in the allotted time. In these deals the Holders had got two slam swings and obtained a penalty at both tables on a third hand. This left the i.m.p. score at 39-0. Luckily, though, the three unplayed boards were flat and the Scots could not have got the points back. (The scores were decided by taking an average of the results at the other tables in play and then scoring these averages against the actual results from the table where Kelsey and McMonagle faced Silverstone and Dixon.)

In the last round the Gold Cup team lost again, the Holders won, and so they retained their grip on the trophy.

The L.C.C.B.A. work very hard, giving a lot of publicity to the event, and they award prizes for meritorious play and comments. The best bid hand



Victor Silverstone



Chris Dixon

prize went to Irving Gordon and Maurice Esterson, but the other awards were monopolised by the Holders. Patrick Jourdain was judged to have made the wittiest comment. The best played hand was this one by Victor Silverstone:

East-West game; dealer South.

	♠ J 5											
	♥ J 4											
	♦ A K 5 4											
	♣ A 9 8 7 5											
♠ 8 3	<table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ A 9 4 2	
	N											
W	E											
	S											
♥ A 10 7		♥ 9 8 6 5 3										
♦ Q J 8 2		♦ 3										
♣ Q J 10 3		♣ K 6 2										
	♠ K Q 10 7 6											
	♥ K Q 2											
	♦ 10 9 7 6											
	♣ 4											

North Dixon	South Silverstone
	1♠
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♣
3♦	3NT
4♣	No

West, Martin Hoffman, led the three of spades, which was won by the declarer's six. A heart to the knave held the trick, and East, Tony Priday, ducked when Silverstone continued with the knave of spades. Next a heart was led to the king and ace, and a heart return was won by South's queen. The queen of spades forced West to discard a club as East won and forced declarer with a heart, West and North continuing to throw clubs. Silverstone drew the last trump and squeezed West. He had to keep four diamonds and so was forced to come down in a singleton club. Declarer played a diamond to the ace, in case East had started with a singleton honour, cashed the ace of clubs and played a low diamond to the ten, endplaying West in diamonds. An excellent piece of card reading.

Silverstone and Dixon also featured in the best defended hand.

Game all; dealer East.

♠ J 6 3 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ J 6 2 ♣ 7 4 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ 10 9 4 ♥ Q 9 5 ♦ Q 5 ♣ A Q 8 6 3	♠ K 7 5 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ K 10 9 4 ♣ J 10 5
	N											
W	E											
	S											
♠ A Q 8 2 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ A 8 7 3 ♣ K 9												

West	North	East	South
Silverstone	Bretherton	Dixon	Crowhurst
No	No	No	1NT

Silverstone got the defence off to the best start when he led the knave of clubs. The declarer won with the king and made the wrong move when he cashed the ace of hearts before running the ten to East's queen. East ran his club tricks, producing this ending:

♠ J ♥ K J ♦ J 6 2 ♣ None	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ 10 9 4 ♥ 5 ♦ Q 5 ♣ None	♠ K 7 ♥ 8 ♦ K 10 9 ♣ None
	N											
W	E											
	S											
♠ A Q 8 ♥ 4 ♦ A 8 ♣ None												

East switched to the five of diamonds, leaving the declarer in an awkward position. If he ducks, West can win with the king and return a heart. So Eric Crowhurst won with the ace and cashed the hearts, throwing a diamond from hand. Silverstone carefully discarded the king of diamonds to avoid the endplay, and so the contract was defeated.

Geoffrey Breskal and David Edwin

invite you to play at the
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 London NW8 9NU.
 Telephone: 01-286 7465

Results:

1st: Holders	(P. Jourdain, E. Martin, V. Silverstone, C. Dixon, G. Calderwood, P. Alder)	264
2nd: Gold Cup	(H. Kelsey, J. McMonagle, R. Bennett, T. Culbertson, K. Baxter, J. Paterson)	244
3rd: Northern	Spring Fours (A. Forrester, R. Smolski, J. Armstrong, G. Kirby, R. Upton, J. Salisbury, A. Sowter)	218
4th: London	(T. Cope, Z. Mahmood, H. Cohen, B. Teltscher, I. Gordon, M. Esterson, J. Flint, R. Sheehan)	176
5th: Masters	(B. Schapiro, T. Reese, R.A. Priday, M. Hoffman, L. Tarlo, M. Wolach)	151
5th: Southern	Spring Foursomes (E. Crowhurst, A. Wardman, K. Stanley, D. Bretherton, D. Huggett, M. Pomfrey)	147

OWNERS ABROAD TROPHY

Essex have always been an ambitious bridge county, and just after Christmas they arranged a Swiss teams championship sponsored by Owners Abroad. It appears that the sponsors were so happy with the event that they have offered to continue sponsorship this year.

Matches were of six boards and the following deal helped the winners to record a 20-0 victory.

North-South game; dealer West.

♠ 8 6 3 ♥ Q 7 ♦ 10 9 6 3 ♣ J 10 5 2	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ 10 7 5 2 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ Q 8 5 2 ♣ 7 4	♠ K Q J 9 4 ♥ A J 10 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 9
	N											
W	E											
	S											
♠ A ♥ K 6 5 3 ♦ J 7 ♣ A K Q 8 6 3												

This was the first auction at the first table:

West	North	East	South
1♠	No	No	Dble.
Redble.	No	No	3♣
3♥	4♣	No	No
Dble.	No	No	No

East seems to have been suffering from a post-Christmas depression. At the vulnerability he could have justified a positive bid at all of his