

# Lederer Trophy 1985

—By N. FITZGIBBON

The Lederer Trophy is an annual event to commemorate Richard and Tony Lederer, a father and son who were prominent in English bridge.

It is held in the comfortable surroundings of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London. Six teams are invited to play, and the aim is to have as high a standard as possible. Both last year and this, an Irish team took part. Our team this year was Adam Mesbur, Brian Senior, Pat Walshe and myself. The other teams were England (who had won their Camrose trial), Gold Cup (winners of that trophy), London, Professionals and Journalists.

The trend nowadays is to disrupt the opposition bidding, even at considerable risk to yourself. Hence we have the Strong Pass Systems, multi two Diamonds and other obstructive opening bids. These tactics can be successful, perhaps because the traditionalists concentrate on reaching their best contract, rather than penalising the obstructive bids, but mainly

because of the unfamiliarity which it introduced into the auction. And when the obstruction is based on rubbish, inferences you may draw about your partner's length or strength in their suit may be sadly astray:

N/S Vul. Dealer West

North			
♠	8 6 5		
♥	10 9 4		
♦	A Q 7 6		
♣	7 3 2		
West	East		
♠	A Q J 7 3	♠	10
♥	6 5	♥	J 7 3 2
♦	J 10 9	♦	8 4 3 2
♣	J 10 8	♣	9 6 5 4
South			
♠	K 9 4 2		
♥	A K Q 8		
♦	K 5		
♣	A K Q		

With Brian Senior West and Pat Walshe East, the bidding proceeded:

W	N	E	S
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dbl
Pass	4♥	Pass	4N
Dbl	5♠	Pass	6♥

Had their been an award for the bravest bid, Walshe's 3S would surely have won it. The contract of 6H went two down, while at our table East opened a psychic 1H and we made eleven tricks in 3NT.

This deal featured in the award for the best played contract. When Sampson of the Professional team was South, he had to declare 4H after a 2S overcall by West. He won the opening Diamond lead in hand and laid down the Ace & King of Hearts, unblocking the ten and nine. He then cashed two rounds of Diamonds, throwing a Spade, and finessed the eight of Hearts. When that held, he took his remaining winners and West was caught in a one suit squeeze. Down to AQJx of Spades, he could throw the low Spade and be thrown in to give a trick to the King, or the Jack of Spades when declarer could exit with the King, pinning, the ten and establishing the nine.

This position also arose at our table, when after a Heart lead cleared up that suit, cashing the top winners forced West into the same dilemma to concede the eleventh trick.

Another disruptive hand against the Journalist team had its amusing side:

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I opened the obligatory multi two Diamonds (had in hand), South doubled to show a good

N/S Vul. Dealer West

North		East	
♠	J 7 6 4 3	♠	None
♥	10 5	♥	A Q 9 8 4
♦	5	♦	9 8 3 2
♣	K J 8 6 5	♣	10 9 7 4
West	East	South	
♠	10 5	♠	A K Q 9 8 2
♥	J 7 6 2	♥	K 3
♦	A Q J 6	♦	K 10 7 4
♣	Q 3 2	♣	A

W	N	E	S
Adam Mesbur	Rixi Markus	Nick Fitzgibbon	David Bird
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	?

hand and Adam's bid of 2S showed a fit for Hearts. My Pass over this, according to the system, showed a weak 2S, and that left South with a problem. Another double would have been for take-out, so he decided to take his plus and passed. This he got — down 7 for 350. Only Rixi was not amused.

However, the Journalists had the last laugh. Against Walshe and Senior, East opened a weak 2H. South bid 4S, West 5H and North 5S. With a considerable amount in reserve, Walshe went on to 6S and lost the two red Aces.

Inspiration was shown by both teams in our match against England. John Armstrong held

♠	K J 6 4
♥	K 10 5
♦	A 11
♣	A 5 2

and the bidding started: 1H on his left, 1S overall from partner and pass on his right. He chose to bid a natural 2NT and passed his partner's raise to 3NT. This contract made, while 4S would have failed after a Heart lead through the K. Brian Senior held this hand in the replay, and had to contend with a strongish pass, showing 11-16 points, on his left, followed by two more passes. He opened (re-opened?) with 1NT, L.H.O. bid 2C showing Clubs and Hearts and Walshe bid 3S. Senior rebid 3NT and made ten tricks to win the board.

Do you always double a cue-bid if you would like the suit led? The information may be more useful to your opponents. At our table on this deal against England, it was a stand-off:

All Nil	Dealer North	
	North	
	♠ A Q 8 5	
	♥ 7 6 4 2	
	♦ J 2	
	♣ A 10 5	
West	East	
♠ 9 6	♠ K J 4 2	
♥ J 3	♥ 10 9	
♦ 10 8 6 5 4	♦ 9 7 3	
♣ Q 9 8 4	♣ J 6 3 2	
	South	
	♠ 10 7 3	
	♥ A K Q 8 5	
	♦ A K Q	
	♣ K 7	

	S	N	
	Adam Mesbur	Nick Fitzgibbon	
	Pass	Pass	
	1♠	1NT	
	2♥	3♥	
	3♠ <sup>1</sup>	4♠ <sup>1</sup>	
	4♦ <sup>1</sup>	4♦ <sup>1</sup>	(Dbl)
	5♥	Pass	

so they were in the slam without the option. Senior led a Spade and the contract failed by one trick, for a swing of 13 imps to us.

The event developed into a two horse race after the first few rounds. Each team played two nine board matches against the others, with 32 vp at stake converted from imps, and a further possible 18 vp from winning, tying or losing each board of the match.

The Professionals always kept ahead by a neck, and in the second last round the Gold Cup team played well to defeat us 36-14 vp, two partscore gains by them being the only swings. In the last round, we defeated the

Journalists 38-12. But despite living dangerously — bidding and making 7NT missing an Ace and still needing a finesse — the Professionals managed a narrow win in their final match to give them overall victory, and the first prize of £500, which was sponsored by Warwick Pitch, the proprietor of the Young Chelsea Bridge Club.

The winning team was Roman Swolski, Norman Selway, Dave Edwin and Richard Sampson, who, as the name of their team implies, all play rubber bridge for a living.

The final scores were Professionals 318, Ireland 300, Gold Cup 267, Journalists 220, England 208, London 187.



Lederer Trophy Winners: Standing: Roman Smolski, Norman Selway. Sitting: Richard Sampson, Dave Edwin.