

The Lederer Memorial Trophy, played at the Young Chelsea Club, demonstrated that people will watch bridge, provided that it is good bridge. Attracted by a galaxy of big names, an enthusiastic audience attended all three sessions of this, the sole surviving Invitation event in the bridge calendar.

The result was: 1st, England (Tony Forrester, John Pottage, Sally Horton, Steve Lodge) 321 VPs; 2nd, Professionals (David Edwin, Richard Sampson, Norman Selway, Bob Rowlands, Henry Bethé) 268; 3rd, London (Victor Silverstone, Chris Dixon, Irving Rose, Robert Sheehan, Zia Mahmood) 262.

John Pottage has already made his mark as one of England's best young players. But if this victory is his greatest achievement so far, it will surely be the first of many.

The prize for the best defended hand went to Selway and Rowlands. Ironically, their victims were the ultimate winners.

Teams. Point-a-board with graded aggregate. Game all. Dealer West

Youth shows the way to live entertainment

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

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

W	N	E	S
Pottage	Sampson	Forrester	Edwin
No	1NT	No	No
No	—	—	—

The events at Table One took an orthodox course. Forrester led a top spade and when permitted to hold the trick switched to a heart. Sampson won the heart in dummy and played a club to the King and Ace. But when Forrester found the killing switch to a diamond, the defence were in control. Sampson could only make four tricks, 300 to East-West.

This was the bidding at table two.

W	N	E	S
Rowlands	Lodge	Selway	Horton
No	1NT	Double	2♠
Double	No	No	No

Selway's double of a strong no trump was possibly influenced by the method of scoring. If his point count was a sub-minimum, at least he had a good lead, an important criterion in a close decision. Sally Horton took refuge in two clubs, but Rowlands pounced like a starving cat.

Rowlands put the defence on the right track when he found a spade lead. Selway won the first trick with the ♠9 and continued with the ♠K. With no entry to her hand, declarer tried a diamond, which ran to the ♠Q. Rowlands switched to a heart, which Sally Horton finessed, losing to the ♥K. Selway took the ♠K before making the key play of cashing the diamond King. When Selway continued with

a fourth spade, Horton ruffed with the ♠9, and Rowlands discarded a heart.

In desperate trouble, Horton played a trump, which Selway sagely ducked. When Horton played a second round of trumps he won with the ♠A.

This was the end position:

♠ —	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	♠ 3
N		E				
W		S				
♥ A J		♥ 8 6				
♦ 9 5	♦ 8					
♣ —	♣ —					

♠ —	♠ Q 10
♥ A 7	♥ —
♦ 10 7	♦ J 8

Selway played the ♠3, ruffed by declarer and over-ruffed by Rowlands. Not content with an 800 penalty, Rowlands tried the *seven of diamonds*, a move which could not cost and would gain an extra trick if declarer could be lulled into playing low from dummy. But Sally Horton smartly hopped up with dummy's A9, to restrict the loss to 11 IMPs.

Jeremy Flint

Top invitation

The Lederer Memorial Trophy, sponsored and staged by the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, will take place at 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5, over next weekend. The Lederer, sadly the only remaining invitation tournament left in the calendar, is one of the few opportunities for spectators to watch the top players competing. There will be three sessions: 2pm and 8pm on October 10, and 1.30pm on October 11. Tickets at £2 per session (or £5 for three sessions) may be purchased at the door, or by writing to the club.

This year the competition will enjoy an international flavour. Sweden, the European Champions on their way to the World Championships in Jamaica, will be joined by strong teams from the United States, Holland, Scotland and Ireland, and some of England's leading players.

Even when the mighty meet, errors occasionally occur, as this hand from last year's contest demonstrates.

Teams. Board-a-match, graded Aggregate. Game All. Dealer South.

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

W	N	E	S
Selway	Breskal	Rowlands	Calderwood
—	—	—	10
No	1♠	No	1NT
No	3NT	No	No
No	—	—	—

Opening lead ♥6

Four spades is a far

superior contract which, as the cards lie, would have produced 10 tricks without difficulty. There are conventions which cater for this situation, but even without scientific weapons North should have tried three diamonds over one no trump, which would inevitably have led to the right spot.

West led the ♥6 and declarer took East's ♥K with the ♥A. A spade to the ♠K was followed by a losing club finesse. West was not taxed to find the killing defence.

After the first trick three no trumps is unbeatable, because the hearts are blocked. One super-scientist suggested that the hand was a good advertisement for 3rd and 5th leads. This style would have required West to lead the ♥8, which on this hand would have had the fortuitous effect of removing the subsequent blocking card. More frequently West might regret his improvident use of a potentially valuable intermediate.

If West is to be criticized for his lead, I would have thought that his failure to select the ♥Q would carry more weight. He knows he has the majority of his side's assets; therefore, unless he can strike at once, the cause will probably be lost.

Should declarer have capitalized on finding the hearts, blocked? By using the rule of 11 he knows that East has only one card higher than the ♥6. It is most unlikely to be the Queen because East played the King on the first round. So it could only be the ♥J, the ♥8 or the ♥7. Bearing in mind that a top class defender has ducked the spade, I believe the odds favour the ♥7.