

THE 1986 LEDERER

by Barry Rigal

The Lederer Memorial Trophy is an invitation event for five well known teams. The 1986 event, held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London and hosted by Warwick Pitch, resulted in an emphatic win for four of England's brightest young stars: Sally Horton & Steve Lodge; Tony Forrester & John Pottage. The latter were a first time partnership but the following was an example of how their defence was functioning:

South	K9654
N/S	3
	J5
	AKQJ9
Q103	
642	
A97	
10875	
	J7
	AKJ987
	K842
	4

South	West	North	East
Sampson	Forrester	Edwin	Pottage
1H	No	2C	No
2H	No	2S	No
3D	No	3S	No
4S	All pass		

It is difficult for North-South to stay out of game, but Four Spades looks to be the worst of the three. John Pottage, deciding to lead a diamond, picked the sensible choice of the queen. This was covered by king and ace, and Forrester continued with the seven of diamonds to the jack. Declarer perforce played a spade to the jack and queen, and Forrester pressed on with a third diamond. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the ace of hearts, and played a spade off the table. This went to the nine and ace, but now the fourth round of diamonds was ruffed by Forrester's ten of spades, promoting the eight as the setting trick.

This was the auction on the same deal in another match:

South	West	North	East
Calderwood	Mahmood	Breskai	Sheehan
1H	No	1S	No
2H	No	3NT	No
4H	All pass		

Four Hearts, even with favourable heart lie, was not cold. Zia Mahmood found the club lead which removed the only entry to the clubs. The winning line is to discard two spades on the clubs, take the heart finesse and eventually set up a diamond. The losing, but fair, choice of Calderwood was to discard 40 diamonds on the clubs and play for two of the three suits to behave favourably.

The best bid hand had a touch of humour about it:

South	6	
Both	1097653	
	5	
	Q10942	
J102		Q9
AQ842		KJ
QJ64		K109732
J		K53
	AK87543	
	None	
	AS	
	AB76	

South	North
Silverstone	Dixon
2S	2NT (neg)
3C	5C
6C	No

Freely bid slams on 17 high card points are fairly rare. This was a simple sequence, but dramatically successful compared with what happened at other tables. One table playing the Strong Club finished in Two Spades, another tried to stop in One Spade but East re-opened and ended in Five Diamonds doubled for 500 to North-South. The success of the given sequence lay in the strong two and the introduction of the club suit. Dixon's raise to Five Clubs suggested the suit should play for one loser, so Silverstone bid the slam.

The most stimulating defensive problem arose for the same pair:

East	75		
N/S	A97		
	A54		
	AK654		
93		AQ10864	
QJ1065		K2	
KQJ109		73	
3		J102	
	KJ2		
	843		
	862		
	Q987		
South	West	North	East
Silverstone	Shek	Dixon	Greenwood
-	-	-	1S
No	2H	No	2S
All pass			

Victor Silverstone led a club against Two Spades. Dixon won with the king and returned a trump to

the queen and king. At this stage South has the perfect opportunity to cherish his partner by continuing with a second trump! This gives up his natural trump trick but declarer has to lose three clubs and one trick in each other suit. In fact Silverstone played a diamond, ducked by North. The contract can still be beaten but declarer now followed with the queen of hearts from the table and Dixon went in with the ace to play another trump. Greenwood, who had unblocked the king of hearts, was able to take the trump and run hearts ditching his club losers. The defence made two trumps, the red aces, but only one club trick. North's defence may not have been perfect, but South could have made it so much easier!

Results: 1. ENGLAND John Pottage, Tony Forrester, Steve Lodge, Sally Horton. 2. PROFESSIONALS Richard Sampson, David Edwin, Bob Rowlands, Norman Selway, Henry Bethe.