

BRIDGE

Close calls in Chelsea

LONDON led throughout in this year's Lederer Memorial Trophy until they met Ireland in the final round. This event, organised by the London Association and sponsored by the T.G.R. Club, was played at the Young Chelsea Club, London, in September. It is by invitation and restricted to teams of the highest class.

In the final round London played Ireland, and this was the crucial hand which decided the winners:

Dealer-South. Love All

♠ QJ10984
♥ AJ853
♦ 4
♣ A

	N	
W	E	
	S	

55

♠ 655
♥ 1062
♦ AKQ
10
♣ 874

♠ K2
♥ Q94
♦ 9753
♣ KJ62

In the Closed Room, with Adam Mesbur and Nick Fitzgibbon North-South against Peter Czerniewski and Barry Rigal, the bidding was:

S	W	N	E
-	-	1♠	-
1NT	-	3♥	-
4♥	-	-	-

East did well to lead a diamond and West won with ♠Q. He continued with ♦K which was ruffed in hand with ♥3. North next led ♠4 on which East played ♠7 and ♠K won. Declarer next led ♥4 to ♠J, losing to ♥K.

A diamond return was ruffed in hand with ♥5, leaving declarer with only two trumps (♥A 8). Mesbur went for his only chance. He knocked out ♠A and ruffed the fourth diamond with ♥8. He next cashed ♥A and hoped that East held the outstanding trump (♥10). In that event he could play off his spades. East would have to ruff and dummy could over-ruff with ♥Q. Crossing back to his hand with ♠A the rest of the spades would give him his contract. Unfortunately West held ♥10, so the contract was one down.

In the Open Room, with David Price and David Burn North-South for London against Pat Walshe and Rory Boland, the bidding was:

S	W	N	E
-	-	1♠	-
1NT	-	2♦	-
2♥	-	3♥	-
4♥	-	-	-

North's 2♦ was a transfer bid and South duly bid 2♥ and accepted North's invitational raise to 3♥ to game. West made the obvious lead of ♦A and continued with ♦K, ruffed in dummy with ♥3. South next led ♠Q from the table and East won with ♠A. It was difficult for East to duck ♠Q as it would

be fatal if South held a small singleton, in which case ♠A could be ruffed out. After winning with ♠A East forced dummy with a diamond, leaving this position:

♠ J10984	♠ 7
♥ AJ8	♥ K7
♦ -	♦ J
♣ A	♣ Q109
	53

♠ 65	♠ K
♥ 1062	♥ Q94
♦ 10	♦ 9
♣ 874	♣ KJ63

At this point declarer had lost two tricks (♦A and ♠A) and the lead was in dummy. All that needed to be done was to lead ♥J. East must win. The fourth diamond can be ruffed in dummy with ♥8 and ♥A cashed. The closed hand is entered with ♠K and the outstanding trump drawn with ♥Q. Crossing to the table with ♠A the spades provide the rest of the tricks.

Unfortunately declarer cashed ♥A followed by ♥J. East won with ♥K and led a club, removing dummy's vital entry. Now, having crossed to hand with ♠K to draw the last trump with ♥Q, there was no way back to the table for the winning spades.

Result one down and Ireland overtook London to win with 244 vps, with London 237. The Swedish national team was third with 227.

G. C. H. Fox