

THE LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY 1992

Glyn Liggins looks at some of the star plays found in this annual invitational event

Here are the hands on which brilliancies were performed in the 1992 Lederer Memorial Trophy. See what you can make of them.

1. What do you lead from the West hand of
 ♠ 2 ♥ J9 ♦ K107532 ♣ 9842
 after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	?NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

Five spades showed two key-cards and the queen of hearts.

2. How should West play four spades on these cards:

♠ AJ64	♠ K987
♥ 53	♥ QJ6
♦ K53	♦ A7642
♣ A652	♣ J

after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South's double of two clubs showed a hand good enough to double a weak no-trump. North leads the ten of diamonds.

3. Plan your defence as East in the following layout:

♠ J10973 ♥ KQJ654 ♦ 10 ♣ K	♠ 52 ♥ A7 ♦ K985 ♣ AQ853
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after this auction:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass

Partner leads the jack of clubs.

The 1993 Lederer Memorial Trophy which was played over the weekend of 31st October-1st November was won in reasonably comfortable fashion by the Icelandic World Champions. The pre-tournament favourites showed a consistency not matched by any of their competitors. Jon Baldursson, Saevar Thorbjornsson (a new partner for Baldursson) Gudmundur Arnarson and Thorlakur Jonsson assured victory with one round to play. The battle for second was closer, with England,

who had started slowly, just losing out to the TGR team, representing one of the sponsors.

The results

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Iceland | 260 |
| 2. | TGR Club (Robert Sheehan, Munir Ata-Ullah, Boris Schapiro, Irving Gordon, Colin Simpson, Bob Brinig) | 225 |
| 3. | England (David Price, Brian Senior, Glyn Liggins, Andy Robson) | 221 |
| 4. | Professionals (Geoffrey Breskal, David Edwin, John Collings, Norman Selway, Victor Silverstone, Unal Durmus) | 210 |
| 5. | Ireland (Nick Fitzgibbon, Adam Mesbur, Pat Walshe, Rory Boland) | 207 |
| 6. | London (Richard Fleet, Steve Lodge, Barry Rigal, Peter Czerniewski) | 189 |
| 7. | British Women (Kay Preddy, Jill Casey, Sandra Landy, Michele Handley) | 187 |
| 8. | British Juniors (Phil Souter, Danny Davies, Peter Dunsby, Harry Anoyrkatis, Jason and Justin Hackett) | 181 |

The three hands above all produced brilliancy-prize winning efforts. The first, which was given as an opening lead problem, actually featured in the best bid hand category. This was the full layout:

Game all; dealer North

	♠ K7543 ♥ AQ6 ♦ Q96 ♣ A5				
♠ 2 ♥ J9 ♦ K107532 ♣ 9842	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J986 ♥ 72 ♦ AJ4 ♣ KJ63
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ AQ10 ♥ K108543 ♦ 8 ♣ Q107				

At the Icelandic table in their match against TGR's this was the auction:

North	South
<i>Thorbjornsson</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>
1♠	2♠ ¹
2♥ ²	2♠ ³
3♠ ⁴	3♦ ⁵ (Double)
3♥ ⁶	3♠ ⁷
4♠ ⁸	6♥
Pass	

¹a forcing-to-game relay ²five spades and three hearts ³relay three diamonds and two clubs ⁴asks for controls ⁵five controls ⁶asks for location of controls ⁷♠-spade control but no diamond control

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Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
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4♣ ⁸	6♥
Pass	

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The top players in Iceland can change partnerships a lot more readily than bridge players in the rest of the world, because they all basically play the same system. Not for them the problems of fundamental differences in bidding philosophy, they just slip into the well-oiled Precision groove with its multitude of relays and plough on. Indeed, it was the Icelandic non-playing captain who decided that the team would be stronger if Baldursson resurrected a partnership from the early eighties with Thorbjornsson. In Iceland the authorities choose a bridge supremo, just like the England football manager, who is solely responsible for the selection, grooming and the performances of the national team. He can break, create and re-shuffle partnerships to form as potent a team as he thinks is possible. The manager lives and dies by the results that his team pulls out. There is thus rarely disagreement about what selectors do, but the supremo has to have broad shoulders to cope with the criticism when things do not go his way.

For the past few weeks I have been thinking about how this system would work in Britain. My first notion was that, although there are some candidates for the national manager, there was no one outstanding candidate. Analysing the possibilities makes for quite an interesting discussion. I suppose that ten or twenty years ago Terence Reese would have been an obvious choice, but age and deafness have crept up on him and he would shy from taking on such a heavy burden nowadays. Then I considered how the bridge world would take to the idea of an omnipotent god-like force. I fear that his decisions would soon come to be seen as too humanly flawed. He would randomly be accused of bias, favouritism, nepotism and whatever other -ism happened to be the flavour of the month. At the end of my ponderings I decided that, although the system might achieve more success than the current one, it is a lot more fun attacking a body of people rather than one man who is just there trying to do his best. I always feel that the England football manager gets a terrible press for doing an inadequate job when really the standard of players he has at his disposal are not up to scratch on the world stage. And maybe that is the lesson we should learn: try to improve our players, partnerships and systems and once we have world-beating players the selectors' (or selector's) job would become less important. Until that time I am afraid that those that choose are always going to find themselves in the firing line...

Back to the hand where the Icelandic relay system is seen at its best. Baldursson knew of his partner's shape and controls and took a pot at the good slam. Unfortunately the 4-1 spade break and the diamond lead, encouraged by one of Reese's so-called fatuous lead-directing doubles, ensured the defeat of the contract. However the best-bid hand award was presented by the Iceland team to David Price and Brian Senior for their efforts on the same board. As Jon Baldursson said at the presentation ceremony afterwards, theirs was the better system, though the English were the better bidders.

In the match between England and the British women, this is what happened:

West	North	East	South
Handley	Price	Landy	Senior
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

This natural sequence featured a game-forcing 2NT rebid and Roman Key-card Blackwood. After the five-spade re-

sponse, showing two aces and the queen of hearts, Senior knew that slam had to be good if partner had the king of spades and decided that it would have play without. Unfortunately for him Michele Handley, with less to guide her than Boris Schapiro, who led the ace of diamonds in the previous auction, still found the lead from ♦K107532 to defeat the contract. It was decided at the prize-giving ceremony that this lead was deserving of an award.

Having played in bizarre and inconsistent fashion for the most part of the weekend, I managed to keep my own eye on the ball on the following hand. Modesty forbids me from recounting the details, so I will rely on the *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent, GCH Fox, who really got to grips with the hand.

Well handled, Sir!

This hand, played by Glyn Liggins in the Lederer Memorial Trophy, won the best played hand award. It occurred in the match between England and Ireland:

Game all; Dealer West

	♠ 105		
	♥ 10987		
	♦ 10		
	♣ Q109743		
♠ AJ64		N	♠ K987
♥ 53		W	♥ QJ6
♦ K53		E	♦ A7642
♣ A652		S	♣ J
	♠ Q32		
	♥ AK42		
	♦ QJ98		
	♣ K8		

This was the auction:

West	North	East	South
Liggins	Fitzgibbon	Robson	Mesbur
1NT	Pass	2♣	Double
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South's double of Stayman showed a strong hand that would have doubled 1NT for penalties. North led the ten of diamonds, taken by West in hand, South playing the jack. With South holding most of the points, West played a spade to the king and finessed the jack. When both opponents followed, it was safe to play a diamond. North showed out, so in order to maintain communications West ducked in dummy and South took the trick in this position:

	♠ None		
	♥ 10987		
	♦ None		
	♣ Q109743		
♠ A6		N	♠ 98
♥ 53		W	♥ QJ6
♦ 5		E	♦ A76
♣ A652		S	♣ J
	♠ Q		
	♥ AK42		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ K8		

Adam Mesbur now led the king of clubs. This excellent defence presented declarer with a losing option. If Mesbur had

