

THE LEDERER TROPHY

by Maureen Dennison

One of the most interesting annual events organised by the London County C.B.A. is the Lederer Memorial Trophy. It is held at the Young Chelsea Club, London, and it is sponsored by both the Young Chelsea and the TGR bridge clubs. Each year eight invited teams play a round robin of 12-board matches and spectators can watch at the tables or enjoy the Vu-Graph coverage.

The scoring system is one of the most difficult on which to judge tactics; 60 VPs are at stake on each match: 24 of those are allocated to Point-a-Board (*see page 27 for an explanation of this scoring method—Ed.*) and the rest to IMPs. Thus the judgement needed is half-way between teams and pairs – quite fascinating.

The holders, Ireland, came to defend their title, but the favourites were four of the Icelandic team that won the Bermuda Bowl last year. The other teams were England, London, The Professionals, TGR's own team, and the Ladies (one pair from our Venice Cup team and the Silver medallists at the recent Olympiad). The other team, the British Juniors, gave us a chance to watch the juniors who were fourth in the European Championships played in Paris last year. They started very well, winning two matches and losing two narrowly on the first day. Unfortunately, they celebrated a 21st birthday



The Winners

too well, and they lost the first match on the second day in disastrous style. Even though they finished at the bottom, they showed a lot of potential, good bidding and play, which is most encouraging for the next few years in junior events.

Iceland were beaten by Ireland and thrashed by the Professionals, but they amassed enough points overall to romp home half a match clear with TGR in second place, four points ahead of England.

This was an amusing hand, fraught with danger. It was played in hearts by North-South, at the three level for one down doubled, and at the four level for minus 500. East-West also bought the contract in a minor, but that was not a success either. The biggest penalty was in the Professionals vs Juniors match, where North decided to open 4♠! East could not double, as this would be for take-out, but had to pray that his partner would be able to do so in fourth seat. The double was duly forthcoming, and the final contract 4♠ doubled. In my book, when I am looking at three certain trump tricks, I want to cash anything that's going and the ♣A

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

would be my lead. However, East led a diamond and North got away for *only* minus 1100!

The deal opposite was a battle of the majors between Iceland and London. Iceland played in 4♥ and London in 4♠. Both contracts looked good, but what nice timing Iceland found against Richard Fleet to earn a game swing:

When Iceland were East-West, South opened 1NT and thus silenced West. East now jumped to 4♥, which has ten easy tricks. In the other room, South passed and Fleet (West) opened with a weak 2♠ which was raised by partner to 4♠. North found the devastating lead of a heart which South won with the ♥Q. The ♥A was cashed next, then a third heart was played, ruffed with the ♠9 and overruffed with the ♠Q by North. Next came a diamond, and declarer was forced to ruff in dummy and could no longer pick up the ♠J.

RESULTS: 1. ICELAND: Jon Baldursson, Saevar Thorbjornsson, Gudmundur Arnarson, Thorlakur Jonsson; 2. TGR CLUB: Robert Sheehan, Munir Attah-Ullah, Boris Schapiro, Irving Gordon, Colin Simpson, Bob Brinig; 3. ENGLAND: David Price, Brian Senior, Glyn Liggins, Andy Robson.

North
 ♠ Q 3
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ Q J 9 8 5 2
 ♣ K 9 2

Dealer: South
 N/S Vul.

West
 ♠ K 10 9 5 4 2
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ K 3
 ♣ 8 6 3

East
 ♠ A 6
 ♥ K 10 7 6 5 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ A Q J 10 7

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

THE LEDERER PRIZE LIST

The Best Played Hand Prize was awarded to Glyn Liggins, and the Best Defended Hand award went to Phil Souter and Danny Davies.

North
 ♠ K 7 5 4 3
 ♥ A Q 6
 ♦ Q 9 6
 ♣ A 5

Board 13
 Dealer: North
 Game All

The prizes for the Best Bid Hand and the Best Lead were both awarded on board 13. Only two pairs bid a good slam on this board: Icelanders Jon Baldursson and Saevar Thorbjornsson used their complicated strong club relay system to reach 6♥, whilst David Price and Brian Senior of the England team bid it naturally. The audience at the prize-giving was polled to determine the better auction and voted for the Icelanders, who were duly presented with two bottles of The Macallan Malt Whisky. In a sporting gesture then Baldursson announced that theirs was the better system but the others were the better bidders,

West
 ♠ 2
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ K 10 7 5 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 4 2

East
 ♠ J 9 8 6
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ A J 4
 ♣ K J 6 3

South
 ♠ A Q 10
 ♥ K 10 8 5 4 3
 ♦ 8
 ♣ Q 10 7

and handed across one of the bottles to Price and Senior.

Unfortunately, this fine slam actually went off on a diamond lead and an unlucky lie of the cards. The lead was marked on the Icelanders' auction, but by popular acclaim Michele Handley (*in the picture*) was awarded the prize for Best Lead for finding a diamond lead as West against England.

