

All Stars fall to the golden boys (and YC)

ZIA Mahmood's All Stars have fallen at last. After winning the popular Lederer Memorial Trophy four times in a row they ran out of sparkle in this year's event, giving way not only to a glittering effort by the current Gold Cup champions, but also to an impressive display by the host club.

So it was Gold Cup winners Phil King, Andrew McIntosh, David Bakhshi and Brian Senior who carried off the trophy, Young Chelsea's Jeremy Dhondy, Richard Hillman, Keith Bennett, Alan Kay and Jon Green filling second place and Zia, with Colin Simpson, Robert Sheehan, David Price and David Burn, having to settle for third.

Apart from their team doing so well it was a hugely successful occasion for the London Metropolitan Bridge Association that again staged the prestigious event, which was sponsored by Bernard Teltscher, LMBA president. There was strong spectator support throughout the weekend and the Vugraph room was constantly abuzz with enthusiastic onlookers.

Not surprisingly it was a close contest all the way, with the Gold Cup team holding just a one point lead over Young Chelsea going into the last match. Although falling back a little Young Chelsea did just enough to hold off the All



The winning Lederer team, from left: Andrew McIntosh, David Bakhshi, Phil King (holding the memorial trophy) and Brian Senior

Stars, who finished strongly. The North American team of John Carruthers, Joe Silver, Adam Wildavsky and Doug Daub finished fourth, while the much-fancied French and Australian teams could manage only fifth and sixth respectively.

New this year was a 'Play with the Stars' satellite event held at Wimbledon Bridge Club, where the participants played 24 boards at the same time as they were played in the main event. The results from the Lederer were transmitted to Wimbledon, where the North-South pairs scored up with England ladies Nicola Smith and Heather Dhondy as 'teammates', while the East-West pairs scored

up with Zia Mahmood and Robert Sheehan. The winners, who were presented with bottles of champagne at the prize-giving on Sunday, were Leslie Kennedy and Maia Knoll (North-South) and Elisabeth Phillips and Ian Fogg (East-West).

It is planned to expand this idea to other clubs next year.

In addition to the first two teams, prizes were awarded to Robert Sheehan and Colin Simpson for the best bid hand, Jon Green for the best played hand and David Price and David Burn for the best defence. Brian Senior won the prize for the most amusing comment.