

The Green Party

Simon Cochemé reports on the 2004 Lederer

THE 58th contest for the Lederer Memorial Trophy, held in honour of Richard and Tony Lederer, was played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in October. For the first time the VuGraph match was shown live on the internet by Bridge Base.

The Holders were back to defend their title against five (mainly) English teams and overseas teams from Ireland and Canada, both warming up for the Istanbul Olympiad. England's three Istanbul-bound pairs were also playing; David Gold/Tom Townsend for England, Andrew Robson/David Bakhshi for the Holders, and Jason and Justin Hackett for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners. Elsewhere Adam Dunn/Dafydd Jones (Wales) were playing for the Young Chelsea Champions and Zia Mahmood (USA) was in the President's Team. Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Gunnar Hallberg and Andrew McIntosh are, of course, all English. The eight teams would play a 12-board match against each other, with 60 Victory Points at stake per match, a combination of IMPs and point-a-board.

Bernard Teltscher, President of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and sponsor of the Lederer, first won the Lederer in 1974. He and Tony Priday (who first won in 1960) showed on this hand

from the first round that traditional methods are sometimes the best:

♠ 5 4 ♥ 4 2 ♦ A 10 7 3 2 ♣ Q 10 9 3	♠ K 10 8 7 2 ♥ Q 9 ♦ 4 ♣ A J 8 7 4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> EW Game Dealer E </div> ♠ A ♥ A K J 5 3 ♦ K Q J 6 5 ♣ K 6	♠ Q J 9 6 3 ♥ 10 8 7 6 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 5 2	
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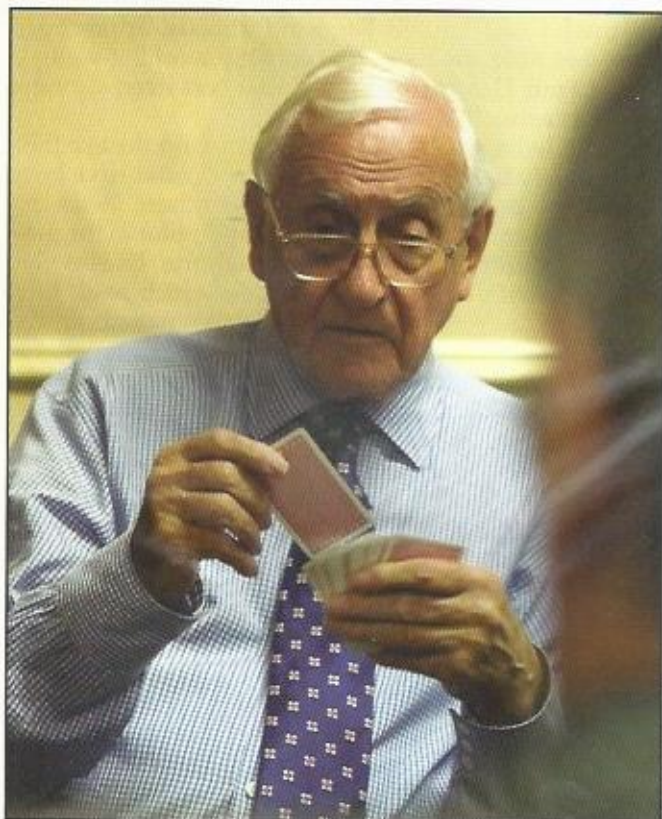
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dunn	Priday	D Jones	Teltscher
—	—	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♦
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

A good old-fashioned strong Two Hearts helped the veterans become the only pair to reach the excellent contract of Six Hearts. Adam Dunn found the best lead of a trump but Teltscher still had two more chances – finding the ace of diamonds on his right or the queen of clubs on his left. The ace was off-side but the club finesse worked so the slam was made. David Burn & Brian Callaghan for the Young Chelsea bid to Six Clubs in the other room. Zia led the ace of diamonds and now the contract had no chance. 14 IMPs to the President's team, on their way to 41-19 win. Of the other six North/South pairs, one was in Five Hearts, the rest in 3NT.

Five pairs bid to game on this hand from Round Two:

♠ 3 2 ♥ 9 8 4 ♦ Q J ♣ A J 8 5 3 2	♠ A Q 10 4 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 10 9 6 ♣ K Q 10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Game All Dealer N </div> ♠ K 8 7 ♥ J 10 6 5 2 ♦ K 8 7 4 ♣ 6	♠ J 9 6 5 ♥ K 7 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ 9 7 4	
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Andrew Robson & David Bakhshi, playing for the Holders against the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners, got to 3NT by North:



Tony Priday

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>de Botton</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Hallberg</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
—	1NT	Pass	2♣ ¹
Double	Pass	Pass	2♥ ²
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

¹relay ²invitational with 5 hearts

Robson chose to bid 3NT with his double club stop and had no difficulty making nine tricks on a club lead.

The other four pairs were in Four Hearts by South. Played by North, after a transfer sequence, Four Hearts is likely to make. With South as declarer, things are not so easy. All four got the lead of the queen of diamonds and all the Easts gave declarer a chance by winning with the ace. They all returned the two of diamonds. All four Souths rose with the king and three of them took an immediate trump finesse. When that lost West got his diamond ruff and cashed the ace of clubs.

The fourth declarer in Four Hearts was Jason Hackett, playing for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners at the other table. At trick three he led his singleton club. West went in with the ace and switched to a spade, but Hackett was able to win in dummy and discard his diamonds on the king-queen of clubs. Then he played the ace and another heart. He ruffed the diamond return high and made the rest of the tricks. If East had held the ace of clubs and been able to give his partner a diamond ruff at trick four, then the contract would have depended on the position of the king of hearts. By postponing a decision on the necessity for a trump finesse Jason had given himself an extra chance, and he was duly rewarded; not only had he avoided an adverse game swing, he had won the point-a-board.

The first board of Round Three generated some excitement in two of the matches:

	♠ K 10 7		
	♥ 9 2		
	♦ 7 6		
	♣ A K J 8 3 2		
♠ J 9 8 6 3 2		♠ 5	
♥ 8		♥ J 6 5	
♦ A K Q 5		♦ J 10 9 4 3 2	
♣ 10 5		♣ Q 6 4	
	♠ A Q 4		
	♥ A K Q 10 7 4 3		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 9 7		

England helped the President's team get to their best contract:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Edwin</i>
—	—	2♦*	Double
5♦	6♣	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

At the other table England got there with a lot less help and flattened the board:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♣	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

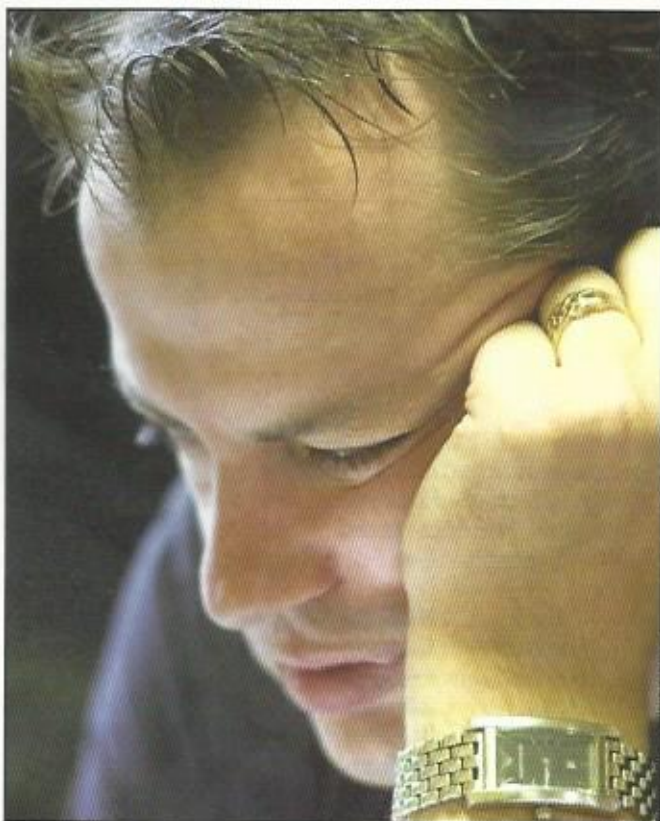
When Ireland were North/South against the Holders the weak Two Diamonds reared its head again:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>McGann</i>
—	—	2♦*	Double
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Hugh McGann gave a good deal of thought to bidding Six Hearts over Six Clubs and regretted not doing so when the trump finesse failed; one down. He would not have been quite so downhearted if he had known what happened at the other table:

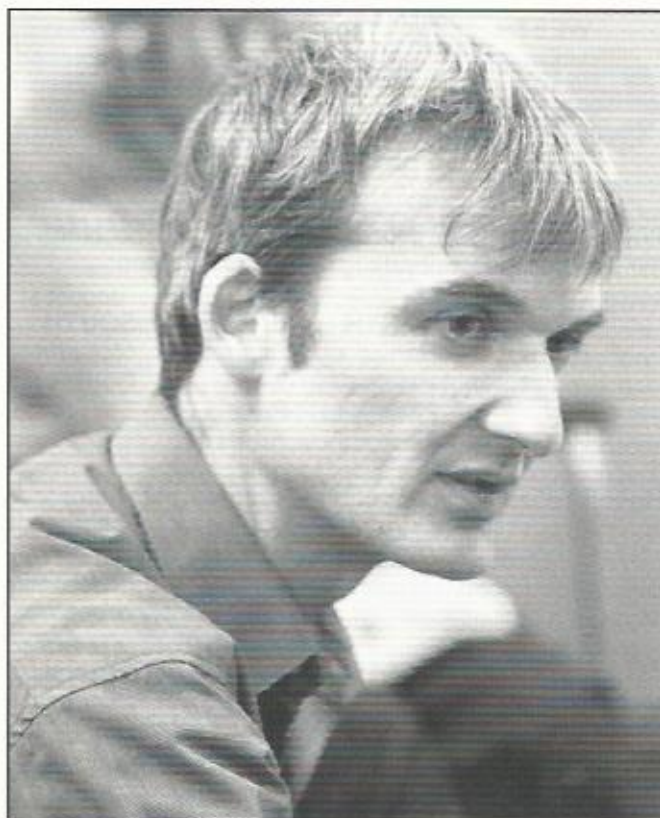
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Carroll</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>King</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
2♠	3♣	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♥
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

A wheel had come off in the bidding but John Carroll was not inclined to be greedy. (Hands up anyone who hasn't doubled opponents into a making contract; for all Carroll knew, Seven Clubs would make on a spade lead). Five down was worth 5 IMPs to the Irish.



Tom Hanlon

Photograph: Gordon Rawlinson



Photographer: Gordon Ramsay

Andrew Robson

In the other two matches the board was flat in +480, with only Adam Dunn & Dafydd Jones of the Young Chelsea Champions investigating a slam (but signing off in Five Hearts).

This hand was from the last round on Saturday:

<p>♠ Q 9 8 ♥ 7 ♦ 10 9 4 2 ♣ 9 8 5 3 2</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> EW Game Dealer E </div>	<p>♠ J 10 ♥ A K 4 ♦ Q 6 5 3 ♣ A K Q 6</p>	<p>♠ A K 7 5 ♥ 10 9 8 6 5 3 2 ♦ 8 ♣ 7</p>
		<p>♠ 6 4 3 2 ♥ Q J ♦ A K J 7 ♣ J 10 4</p>	

Two pairs reached Six Diamonds on the North/South cards and conceded one off as soon as they saw dummy. When the Holders faced Canada the bidding on VuGraph went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Robson</i>	<i>Silver</i>
—	—	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

Andrew Robson had not mentioned his heart suit for fear of encouraging a heart lead. He was rewarded

when David Bakhshi led the eight of spades, an attitude lead, apparently denying interest in spades. Robson won with the king and considered his options. With a significant point-a-board element in the scoring, overtricks and undertricks could be very important. Eventually he decided to play his partner for precisely Q-9-8 of spades and returned the five of spades. The defence took the first four tricks to beat 4NT by one.

In the other room André Laliberté opened one heart on the East cards and the Holders bid to 6NT. Jon Robinson led his partner's suit (proving Robson's point) and declarer made eleven tricks. Very different contracts, but a flat board. Their play earned Andrew Robson and David Bakhshi the prize for the best defended hand.

At the end of Saturday, after four rounds, the leading positions were as follows:

Ireland	160
President's Team	128
Holdes	127
Canada	112
Schapiro Spring Foursomes	112

Ireland were back on VuGraph against the Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners for the first match on Sunday:

<p>♠ K 8 6 3 ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q 10 8 5 ♣ Q 10 9</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> NS Game Dealer E </div>	<p>♠ J 5 4 2 ♥ A K J 10 6 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 7 ♥ 7 ♦ J 9 6 ♣ 7 6 4 3 2</p>
		<p>♠ A ♥ 8 5 4 3 2 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ A J 8 5</p>	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Garvey</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦*
Pass	7♥	Pass	All Pass

2NT was game-forcing with hearts. Three Clubs showed a minimum. Three Diamonds asked for more information and 3NT showed a singleton spade. Five Hearts showed two of the five key cards and Six Diamonds showed either the king of diamonds or the two side-suit kings not including the king of diamonds.

When England faced Canada the bidding went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Carruthers</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦*
Pass	7♥	Pass	All Pass

2NT was game-forcing with hearts. Three Spades showed a singleton spade. Five Hearts showed two of the five key cards and Six Diamonds showed the king of diamonds.

These two sequences earned their bidders a share of the prize for the best bid hand. What made the judges choose this hand? Of the other six North/South pairs, only one bid a small slam while five languished in game.

♠ 10 9 8 3	♠ 5 4	♠ 7
♥ Q 10 8	♥ 6	♥ J 7 5 4 3 2
♦ Q 10 8 5	♦ A 6 4 3 2	♦ K 9 7
♣ J 7	♣ K 10 8 5 3	♣ Q 9 6
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;"> Love All Dealer E </div>		
♠ A K Q J 6 2		
♥ A K 9		
♦ J		
♣ A 4 2		

Five of the Easts passed and the North/Souths had an uncontested auction, but only two of them managed to reach Six Spades. The other three Easts opened a Multi Two Diamonds and that was enough to inhibit two of the North-Souths from bidding a slam. Only the Hackett twins were able to handle the pre-emption:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Justin H</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Jason H</i>
—	—	2♦ ¹	Double
3♥ ²	3NT ³	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

¹Multi ²pass or correct ³minors

West raised the ante with his Three Heart bid but Justin had a bid available that described his hand and that was all Jason needed to know.

Despite this setback Ireland won their first two matches on Sunday, but the Holders and England scored bigger wins to close the gap. With one round to go there were three teams still in contention. Ireland were leading with 230 VPs from the Holders (222) and England (208). Ireland were playing the President's Team and the Holders faced England on VuGraph. This hand was critical in both matches.

♠ Q J 10 7 6 4 3	♠ A K 5	♠ 9 8 2
♥ J 3	♥ A 9 8 7 4	♥ K 6 5 2
♦ 2	♦ K 6 4	♦ J 9 5 3
♣ J 9 2	♣ K 8	♣ Q 4
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;"> NS Game Dealer E </div>		
♠ —		
♥ Q 10		
♦ A Q 10 8 7		
♣ A 10 7 6 5 3		

Townsend/Gold for England, King/McIntosh for the Holders and Mahmood/Coyle for the President's Team all bid to Seven Diamonds.



Photograph: Gordon Rennie/PA

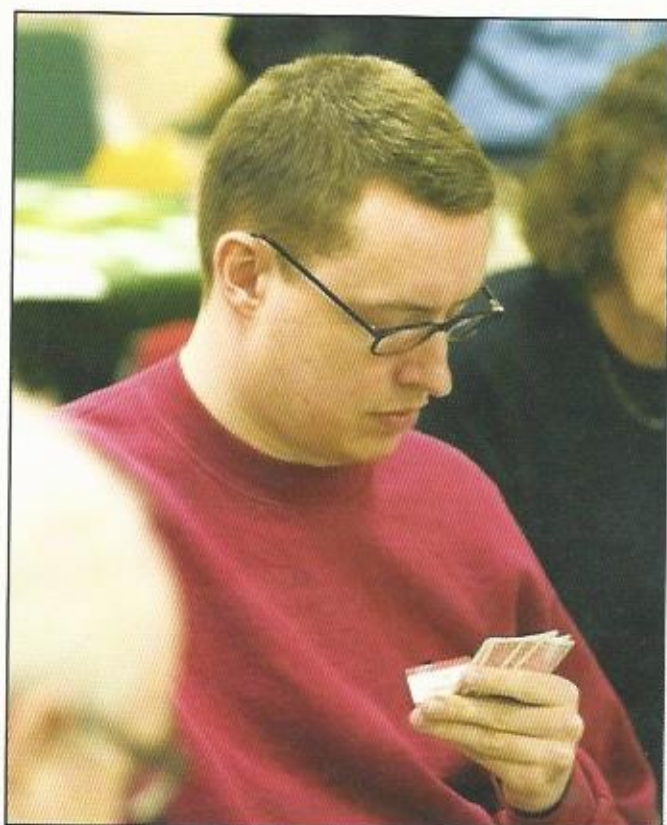
David Gold

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
—	—	Pass	1♣
3♠	3NT	4♠	5♦
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♦
All Pass			

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Simpson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>King</i>
<i>Carroll</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
3♠	Double*	4♠	1♦
Pass	7♦	Pass	6♣
		All Pass	

The queen of spades was led at every table and all three declarers played to set up the clubs. When West showed up with a third club they had to ruff with dummy's king of diamonds. Now the critical point had been reached: how to play the trumps. Townsend and King both played a diamond to the ace and went back to the ace of hearts to finesse the ten of diamonds. This line would have succeeded if the jack of diamonds had been singleton in the West hand or trebleton in the East hand, but failed on the actual lie of the cards. So in the Holders v England the board was flat in Seven Diamonds minus one.

The play started in the same way when Zia was declarer, but, after ruffing the third club with the king of diamonds, he played a diamond to the eight! When that held he was able to cross to dummy with the ace of hearts and take another trump finesse. There was much discussion on VuGraph, Bridge Base and in the bar about the relative odds of the two lines of play. I am reliably informed that Zia's line of finessing the eight of diamonds immediately is a 21 to 17 favourite. Zia was



Tom Townsend

the only person to make thirteen tricks and a worthy winner of the award for the best played hand.

Tom Hanlon and Hugh McGann bid and made 6NT on the board so Ireland lost 12 IMPs and went on to lose the match by 27-33.

Tom Townsend reached a thin 3NT on this deal:

♠ A 9		♠ 8 7 6 4 3
♥ Q 3		♥ K 10 9 7 5
♦ 8 5 4 2		♦ K 3
♣ K Q J 10 9		♣ 3
♠ K Q 10	Love All Dealer S	
♥ 6 4 2		
♦ Q 10		
♣ A 8 7 4 2		
♠ J 5 2		
♥ A J 8		
♦ A J 9 7 6		
♣ 6 5		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Robson	Gold	Bakhshi	Townsend
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥ ¹
Pass	2S ²	Pass	2NT ³
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

¹ either a reverse or 11-14 balanced ² enquiry

³ 11-14 balanced

Elsewhere three North/Souths were in 3NT on less revealing auctions. They received the four of clubs lead when played by South or the seven of hearts lead when played by North and had no problem making game.

After the auction shown above, Andrew Robson led the king of spades. Tom Townsend won with the ace and played to set up his tricks without allowing East on lead. Of course, he had to assume that West held the ace of clubs. At trick two he played a diamond to the six, much to the approval of the VuGraph audience. This would have gained if East had held K-10-3 or Q-10-3 of diamonds. In that case Townsend would be able to reach dummy with a club and repeat the diamond finesse, keeping the seven of diamonds in hand to cross back to dummy's eight to cash the clubs. When Robson won the first diamond trick with the ten he had to decide whether to continue spades, in the hope that his partner would have spade winners and an entry. As the cards lay there was nothing he could do. After lengthy thought (even by Robson's standards) he played a heart and Townsend was able to wrap up ten tricks. The Holders had made Three Diamonds in the other room so England had gained 8 IMPs.

The slow play at the VuGraph table meant they were still playing when all the other tables had finished. The VuGraph room was packed to see if the Holders could pick up the points they needed to overhaul Ireland. On the last board England's David Gold was in Three Spades doubled. If he went one down then Ireland would win; if he went two down then the Holders would retain their title. In the event he was one off and the Holders had managed only a 33-27 win. So Ireland emerged as the winners of the 2004 Lederer by 2 VPs, the smallest ever margin of victory. Both Ireland and the Holders had won six matches out of seven; crucially, the Holders' only loss had been to Ireland.

The final leader board was as follows:

1st	Ireland (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon)	257
2nd	Holdes (Phil King, Andrew McIntosh, Andrew Robson, David Bakhshi)	255
3rd	England (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Colin Simpson, David Price)	235
4th	Gold Cup Winners (Peter Lee, Bob Rowlands, Jeffrey Allerton, Frances Hinden, Sean O'Neill, John Frosztega)	213

A 'Play with the Stars' satellite event was held at the Acol, Hurlingham, Roehampton and Wimbledon Bridge Clubs. The pairs played the first 24 Lederer boards and IMPed up with one of the Lederer pairs. The winners of the newly presented Teltscher Cups were:

North/South

(scoring with Andrew Robson/David Bakhshi):
Jim Bochsler & Byron Crittenden (Wimbledon Bridge Club)

East/West

(scoring with Zia Mahmood/Willie Coyle):
Ivor Miller & John Sadler (Acol Bridge Club)

Tribute for a very successful tournament should be paid to sponsor Bernard Teltscher, the LMBA organisers, Warwick Pitch, and all the volunteer helpers from the Young Chelsea.