

# Lederer stays with the Irish

THE Irish have done it again. Fielding the same team that last year wrested the Lederer Memorial Trophy from Zia Mahmood's All Stars line-up, Ireland's Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon clung on to their title as the 59th contest for the coveted trophy went right to the wire.

With the inclusion of top German players Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim the event attracted its most glittering field yet and the organisers will surely find it difficult to go one better for the 60th Lederer next year. Twenty of the players in action were on their way afterwards to play in the World Championships in Estoril.

Played once more at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, the gathering of top players drew spectators from as far as Devon and Yorkshire, who packed the Vugraph room to be thoroughly entertained by the play and by David Bird's commentary.

Held over two days, eight invited teams played 12 board matches against each other, with victory point scoring (partimps and part point-a-board).

Auken and von Arnim were linked with Mahmood and his Estoril partner John Mohan from the USA as the All Stars team eager to recapture past glories in the event for their leader.



The winning team, from left: Tom Hanlon, Tommy Garvey, John Carroll and Hugh McGann

The 2005 Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners included Valio Kovachev and Vladi Isporski from Bulgaria.

Bernard Teltscher, president of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and the main sponsor of the Lederer, had three Scots in his team, while Janet de Botton's team included two Swedes and a Pole, as well as the Hackett twins, Jason and Justin.

The All Stars moved into an early lead, but a big loss to the Irish in the last match on Saturday saw them drop to fourth place. The position overnight (after four matches) was England and Ireland tied on 156 ahead of the Spring Foursomes team on 139 and the All Stars on 134.

England beat Ireland 32-28 on Sunday afternoon, enabling All Stars to close the gap. The All Stars then went on to beat England heavily in the last round and the result of the Lederer depended on the Irish winning their last match by a big enough margin. Their 48-12 victory was enough and so Ireland retained the trophy.

The maestro deep in thought: but Zia Mahmood could not figure out a way to get his All Stars team to finish ahead of the Irish



Bernard Teltscher, LMBA president, left, with Teltscher Cup North-South

**'It's great for spectators to see so many top class players in action'**

Result: 1 Ireland (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon) 273, 2 All Stars (Zia Mahmood, John Mohan, Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim) 266, 3 Spring Foursomes winners (Geoffrey Wolfarth, Brian Senior, Vladi Isporski, Valio Kovachev) 236, 4 England (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Colin Simpson, David Price) 229, 5 Australia (Sartaj Hans, Tony Nunn, Phil Markey, David Horton) 180, 6 Young Chelsea Champions (Janet de Botton, Gunnar Hallberg, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett) 178, 7 President's team (Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, John Matheson, Victor Silverstone, Chris Dixon 163, 8 Ladies (Nicola Smith, Heather Dhondy, Sally Brock, Kitty Teltscher, Michelle Brunner, Rhona Goldenfield) 155.

The winners of the Teltscher Cups in the Play with the Stars event, competed for by clubs playing the same first 24 boards as in the Lederer, were: North-South (scoring with Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim) Neill Marcus and Sophie Levi (Acol Bridge Club); East-West (scoring with Zia Mahmood and John Mohan) Danny Gesua and Marion Tamblin (Roehampton Bridge Club), equal with Maurice and Bertha Bechor (Hurlingham Bridge Club).

Tournament manager Simon Cochemé was delighted with the success of the weekend: 'It's great for the spectators to be able to see so many top class players in action and we certainly had a great field again this year,' he said.

'The Lederer also has a wonderful history, with early winners like Plum Meredith, Maurice Harrison-Gray and Ian McLeod. For