

Dublin? Up

Simon Cochemé reports on the 2005 Lederer

The 59th contest for the Lederer Memorial Trophy, held in honour of Richard and Tony Lederer, was played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in October. Ireland had won in 2004 by 2 VPs, the smallest margin ever, and they were back to defend the biggest trophy in British bridge (44 cms high, if you're interested). Their main challengers were expected to be two of England's Bermuda Bowl pairs (David Gold - Tom Townsend, David Price - Colin Simpson) and the All Stars (Zia Mahmood - John Mohan, Sabine Auken - Daniela von Amim), also Estoril-bound. The eight invited teams would play twelve board matches against each other, with 60 Victory Points at stake per match, a combination of IMPs and point-a-board.

This was a hand from the first match:

♠ J5		♠ 9863
♥ K98		♥ 73
♦ Q642		♦ J87
♣ AK82		♣ J1095
♠ K74		
♥ QJ1052	Game NS	
♦ K103	Dealer E	
♣ Q3		
♠ AQ102		
♥ A64		
♦ A95		
♣ 764		

Most of the Souths opened One Spade or 1NT, and they were soon in 3NT on the lead of the queen of hearts. They all won the second heart, took the losing spade finesse and won the heart return. They would now

liked to have combined their chances, making if the clubs were 3-3 or if East had the king of diamonds (and could be thrown in with the fourth club). Unfortunately, when a club was played to dummy's eight and East's nine, East returned a diamond, forcing declarer to make an immediate decision. Some ducked and went two off, some didn't and went one off.

Two Souths opened One Club and both Wests overcalled One Heart. These Souths too reached 3NT with the queen of hearts lead. One South ducked and was then in the same position the declarers who had not had the overcall.

Willie Coyle, playing for the President's Team against the England Ladies (on their way to Estoril, where they would turn into the England Women), saw that he had an extra chance. He won the lead in dummy and took the spade finesse. He won the heart return in hand and ran the spades. He now had the option of cashing the ace-king of clubs and exiting with the carefully preserved third heart. This would gain on the actual layout, where West held two clubs and the king of diamonds, but it would lose if West held two clubs without the king of diamonds, or whenever the clubs were 3-3. Coyle reverted to the same line as his fellow Souths and ended up with eight tricks.

The President's Team played the All Stars in Round 2. A little extra tension was created by the fact that Victor Silverstone and Zia had each won the Lederer six times and a victory in 2005 would give one of them an outright lead.

♠ 9754		♠ Q1062
♥ AQ107		♥ 32
♦ K5		♦ Q943
♣ 1082		♣ AK3
♠ 3		
♥ KJ94	Game NS	
♦ A10862	Dealer N	
♣ 974		
♠ AKJ8		
♥ 865		
♦ J7		
♣ QJ65		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mohan	Dixon	Mahmood	Silverstone
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Double	Redouble	3♠	Pass
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

John Mohan protected in the West seat after the opponents' bidding had died in Two Spades. Zia's bid of Three Clubs might not be the majority choice, but it created a bit of excitement. Silverstone didn't double Three Clubs on his minimum hand, so we never found out how Zia would have fared in a 3-3 club fit, or if Zia or Mohan would have escaped to Three Diamonds if



Mike Hill (Chairman of LMBA) and Zia Mahmood (best defence)

Three Clubs had been doubled.

Mohan obediently led a club against Three Spades. Left to his own devices Silverstone would undoubtedly have made the contract, playing East for the queen of spades and West for the ace of diamonds and the king-jack of hearts. Indeed, both Vladi Isvorski for the Spring Fourseasons Winners and David Horton for Australia made nine tricks in spades. However Zia won with the king and switched to the two of hearts. From Silverstone's point of view this was almost certainly a singleton, so he rejected the spade finesse and cashed the ace-king of spades, getting the bad news. He exited with a club to the ace and Zia played the three of hearts, a real singleton this time! Silverstone won in dummy and led a spade. Zia went up with the queen of spades, played a diamond to his partner's ace and Mohan had no difficulty giving Zia his heart ruff. Three Spades down one and 5 IMP's to the All Stars, on their way to a 39-21 win. This piece of Zia magic won him and John Mohan the prize for the best defended hand.

The Australian team, stopping off in London on their way to the World Championships in Estoril, had jet-lag to contend with, as well as some formidable opposition at the bridge table. They lost their first three matches, including an Ashes rematch against England, before coming up against the Young Chelsea Champions.

♠ 92	♠ AKQ3	♠ 108764
♥ 1092	♥ AJ64	♥ KQ85
♦ 7432	♦ K10	♦ 96
♣ J1065	♣ K74	♣ 98
	Game EW	
	Dealer E	
	♠ J5	
	♥ 73	
	♦ AQJ85	
	♣ AQ32	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>Nunn</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Hans</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Double	2♠*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Seven of the eight North-South pairs played in a small slam, one in diamonds and the others in no-trumps. At nearly all the tables the first four bids were as above, with North sooner or later jumping to 6NT. In the Australian auction Sartaj Hans bid Three Spades at his third turn, showing that he had extra values but no further distribution. The 5NT bid was 'pick a slam' and when South bid Six Diamonds, showing a good suit, Tony Nunn went on to Seven. The play presented no problem and thirteen tricks rolled in. Hans and Nunn were awarded the prize for the best bid hand. Australia recovered from their poor start and finished in fifth place.

Ireland played the All Stars on VuGraph in Round 4, the last match on Saturday. Ireland were in third place at the time, behind England and the All Stars, so this was a crucial encounter.



Photograph: Gordon Rainsford

Ireland's Tom Hanlon, Tommy Garvey, John Carroll & Hugh McGann



Photograph: Gordon Rainsford

The All Stars, Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim, Zia Mahmood & John Mohan



Photograph: Gordon Rainsford

Tony Nunn & Sartaj Hans (best bidding)

Photograph: Gordon Kai



Hugh McGann

Photograph: Gordon Rainsford



Tom Hanlon

♠ A542	Game EW Dealer N	♠ K
♥ 1086		♥ QJ4
♦ AQ8		♦ 6542
♣ 1098		♣ 76543
		♠ J10876
		♥ A
		♦ 1093
		♣ AQJ2

The bidding started the same way at all eight tables:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	?

Faced with a close decision, Sabine Auken was the only South to pass and she made nine tricks for +140. Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon continued Three Clubs - Three Spades - Four Spades. The various continuations over Two Hearts at the other tables led to a wide range of contracts and to a swing in each of the other three matches.

Four Spades went down elsewhere, but McGann played it well to overcome the 4-1 trump break. West, John Mohan, led ace and another diamond. McGann went up with the king, led a heart to the ace and a club back to dummy's king. He discarded the ten of diamonds on the king of hearts and played a trump. Zia won with the king of spades and returned a diamond. McGann ruffed and played a trump towards dummy which Mohan ducked. McGann now ruffed a heart and played winning clubs from his hand, nullifying Mohan's ace-five of trumps.

The All Stars lost 7 IMPs on the board, and they were to lose more on this next one:

♠ 8	Game All Dealer W	♠ 1075
♥ AJ872		♥ 964
♦ 8763		♦ Q1052
♣ 1097		♣ 632
♠ AK932		♠ QJ64
♥ KQ105		♥ 3
♦ 9		♦ AKJ4
♣ 854		♣ AKQJ

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
McGann	Mohan	Hanlon	Mahmood
1♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

The auction in the match where Zia was South was fairly typical, with the main decision being whether to bid 2NT or 3NT on the second round. Seven of the North-South pairs were in Two or Three No-trumps, played by South. Only Zia was held to eight tricks.

Hugh McGann got his side off to a good start when he led the queen of hearts rather than the three of spades, the choice at all the other tables. The lead of the queen asked for attitude or, if that was clearly inappropriate, count. Zia won in dummy with the ace of hearts and Tom Hanlon played the four, showing three hearts. With the diamond queen likely to be offside, and with a point-a-board element to the scoring, Zia chose to play diamonds from the top. After cashing his six minor-suit winners Zia exited with the queen of spades. West had discarded two spades and East one spade. Confounding the predictions of the on-line VuGraph commentators, McGann found the only card to give him a chance of beating the contract - the ten of hearts. Zia won the trick with dummy's jack and a bridge had been built to Hanlon's nine of hearts. Now, whatever Zia did, the defence had the communications to take the nine of hearts, the queen of diamonds, the ace of spades and the king of hearts and beat the contract by one trick. When John Carroll made 3NT at the other table the Irish picked up 12 IMPs. They went on to win the match 50-10 and move into a share of the lead. Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon were awarded second prize for their defence.

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

England	156
Ireland	156
Schapiro Spring Foursomes	139
All Stars	134

David Bird (who had the distinction of playing with Rixi Markus for the 1985 Journalists' team, her last appearance in the Lederer) was on 'live' VuGraph duty at the Young Chelsea on Sunday and pointed out something curious about the first board.

♠ 52		
♥ AKQ		
♦ A1072		
♣ KJ95		
♠ 976		♠ K1084
♥ 765		♥ J1092
♦ KJ94		♦ 85
♣ 1064		♣ A83
	Love All	
	Dealer N	
♠ AQJ3		
♥ 843		
♦ Q63		
♣ Q72		

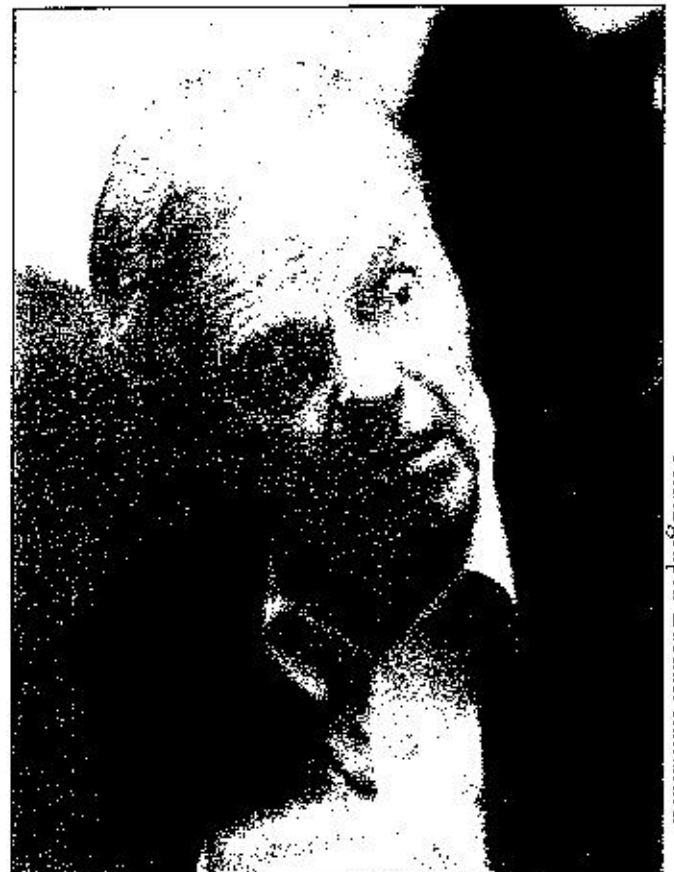
North-South can make game (exactly) in all four suits! The most taxing contract is Five Diamonds, but declarer can make eight tricks in the side suits and then lead his last spade. Whichever trump West chooses to ruff with, he will score only one trump trick to go with partner's ace of clubs. If he ruffs with the nine, for example, declarer overruffs with the ten and end-plays West with a trump to the six. If instead West ruffs with the jack, declarer undertruffs in the dummy to leave West end-played.

Alas, seven of the North-Souths were unadventurous, ignoring the Maysian Five Clubs and Five Diamonds and playing in mundane 3NT contracts. The exception was the pair that did make ten tricks in hearts ... defending One Heart Doubled!



Photograph: Gordon Rainsford

Sabine Auken



Photograph: Gordon Rainsford

John Mohan



Justin Hackett



Daniela von Arnim

Sabine Auken opened a strong club as North and East doubled to show the majors. Daniela von Arnim redoubled and Auken then doubled East's One Heart bid. As was almost invariably the case over the weekend, the German ladies' defence was merciless and they took +800 and 8 IMPs from the board.

This board from Round 6 produced a classic example of a Lightner double in the match between the All Stars and the Young Chelsea Champions.

♠ J106 ♥ AK97 ♦ J63 ♣ 863	Game EW Dealer E	♠ Q5 ♥ J10843 ♦ AKQ1097 ♣ -
♠ 72 ♥ Q5 ♦ 8542 ♣ J10742	♠ AK9843 ♥ 62 ♦ - ♣ AKQ95	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Mohan</i>	<i>Jason H</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Justin H</i>
Pass	2♠	1♦	1♠
Pass	4♠	3♦	3♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

Zia's double got him the club lead he wanted but he was, in effect, ruffing Justin Hackett's only loser and twelve tricks were made. Classic maybe, but unsuccessful on this occasion.

At the other table the bidding went:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sandqvist</i>	<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Auken</i>
Pass	3♦ ¹	1♥ ¹	2♥ ²
Pass	5♥ ¹	4♦	5♦ ²
Pass	6♠	Pass	6♦ ²
		All Pass	

¹Not everyone's choice: six of the seven other Easts opened One Diamond.

²Spades and a minor. ³Invitational in spades.

Sabine Auken generously let her partner bid spades first, so the Lightner double wasn't an option. The Young Chelsea Champions won the board and gained 6 IMPs.

Two other pairs bid to Six Spades, Phil Markey and David Horton for Australia and Tommy Garvey and John Carroll for Ireland, the latter using an increasingly popular bidding gadget to help them get there.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Carroll</i>	<i>K Teilscher</i>	<i>Garvey</i>
—	—	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦	3♦	5♦ ¹
Pass	5♥ ²	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

¹Exclusion Backwood.

Round 6 also included a board that produced a number of different opening bids and a variety of final contracts.

(Rotated for convenience)

♠ QJ97 ♥ A1063 ♦ Q108 ♣ K8	♠ A1054 ♥ KJ754 ♦ AJ ♣ 75 Game NS Dealer S	♠ 632 ♥ 8 ♦ 9432 ♣ AJ1032	♠ K8 ♥ Q92 ♦ K765 ♣ Q964
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Three Wests opened One Heart, two opened 1NT, two opened One Club and one opened One Diamond. At one end of the spectrum East went three or four off in 1NT. At the other end two North-South pairs got to game. Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon bid to Four Hearts by North, and, on the lead of the four of diamonds, McGann was able to discard one of his club losers on the king of diamonds. In the match between the All Stars and the Young Chelsea Champions the bidding was as follows:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Sandqvist</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Double ¹	2♣	3NT
All Pass			

¹For penalties, good hearts

Nick Sandqvist received the useful lead of the queen of spades. He won in hand with the king and, short of entries to hand, immediately ran the nine of hearts. When this held he finessed the ten of spades and then reverted to hearts, ending with nine tricks. The Young Chelsea Champions beat the All Stars 33-27.

With one round to go, Ireland were leading with 225 VPs, ahead of England on 222 and the All Stars on 213. The All Stars played England on VuGraph and had a storming set.

♠ Q1082 ♥ — ♦ AK1063 ♣ 9543	♠ 543 ♥ AK10842 ♦ 852 ♣ J Game NS Dealer E	♠ AKJ ♥ Q753 ♦ 74 ♣ AKQ7	♠ 976 ♥ J96 ♦ QJ9 ♣ 10862
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WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>von Arnim</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Auken</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
—	—	1♣ ¹	Pass
2♣ ²	2:	Double	All Pass

¹Strong, 16+ ²8+ points with 5+ diamonds

contract of Two Hearts doubled and conceded 800. Could his team-mates rescue him?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>Mohan</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
—	—	1♣	Pass
1:	1:	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Tom Townsend and David Gold could, and did, save the board, but the 3 IMPs won were too few and the All Stars ran out winners by 54-6 VPs, the biggest win of the week-end. With friendly breaks in spades and diamonds Seven Spades makes, but only Nick Sandqvist and Artur Malinowski played in spades, and that was at the four level. The only other pair to bid the slam were the Bulgarians, Vladi Isporski and Valio Kovachev, playing for the Spring Foursomes Winners.

Meanwhile Ireland were playing the Young Chelsea Champions, needing, although they didn't know it, 42 VPs to retain the trophy. They managed to heighten the drama by being the last match to finish. They won 48-12 to record a narrow overall win by Lederer standards, although a comfortable margin compared with last year.

The final leader board was as follows:

1 st	Ireland (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon)	273
2 nd	All Stars (Zia Mahmood, John Mohan, Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim)	266
3 rd	Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners (Geoffrey Wolfarth, Brian Senior, Vladi Isporski, Valio Kovachev)	236
4 th	England (Tom Townsend, David Gold, Colin Simpson, David Price)	229

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 All Star pairs. The winners of the Feltcher Cups were:

North-South (scoring with Sabine Auken - Daniela von Arnim):

Neill Marcus & Sophie Levi (Acol Bridge Club)

East-West - equal first (scoring with Zia Mahmood - John Mohan):

Danny Gesua & Marion Tamblin (Roehampton Bridge Club)

Maurice & Bertha Beecher (Hurlingham Bridge Club)

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

David Price was held to just five trump tricks in his