

Lederer 2007

Paul Lamford reports on the annual invitation event at the Young Chelsea.

The Lederer Trophy started in 1946 and was originally a challenge event between London Bridge Clubs. Over the following years an international flavour was introduced and overseas teams have included Australia, Canada, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, North America, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

It is organised by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and generously sponsored by Bernard Teltscher, President of the LMBA, and hosted by the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in West London. This year's event followed closely after the Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai and former participants such as Helgemo and Zia, who fought out the final in China, were understandably unavailable. The absence of Zia, who has won the event a record seven times, gave other winners, such as the ubiquitous Simpson and Silverstone, a chance to close the gap. The teams:

- ♠ **Gold Cup Winners:** Brian Short, David Walker, John Murdoch, Malcolm Cuthbertson, Douglas Piper, Jack Paterson
- ♥ **Schapiro Spring Foursomes Winners:** Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Andrew McIntosh, Gunnar Hallberg, David Price, Colin Simpson
- ♦ **Crockfords Winners:** Janet de Botton, David Burn, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason Hackett, Justin Hackett
- ♣ **Tollemache Winners (Gloucestershire):** Keith Stanley, Richard Chamberlain, Andrew Kambites, John Atthey, Joe Angscesing, Graham Sadie
- ♠ **Ireland:** Tommy Garvey, David Bakhshi, Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann
- ♥ **European Open Mixed Teams Champions:** Heather & Jeremy Dhondy, Lilo & Matilda Poplilov
- ♦ **President's Team:** Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, John Matheson, Victor Silverstone, Chris Dixon
- ♣ **Young Chelsea Knock-Out Champions:** Steve Popham, Adrian Scheps, Mike Vail, Norman Selway, Jerry Harouni

Each match is over 12 boards and is scored by the unusual format of 60% IMPs and 40% point-a-board. The IMPs are converted into VPs on a scale 0-36, and two points are awarded for winning a board. This adds a lot of interest when declarers reach a cold game, as the overtrick is still critical, but making the contract still takes priority.

As Colin Simpson freely admitted at the closing ceremony, he and David Price did not actually win the Spring Fours, and came into this team as substitutes for Liggins and Crouch who were unavailable. The

Irish team had been in Shanghai a week earlier, and the 50% who were married, of their team of six, declined to play in this event! David Bakhshi, whose wife qualifies for Ireland, came in to avoid them having a team of three!

Before you read on, try the following two problems, and then see how your choice would work out on the actual hand:

- a) You are unfavourable and have ♠AQ42 ♥AK87 ♦K7 ♣K42 and partner opens 1♣ as dealer (which is clubs or balanced). RHO bids 1♥ and you bid 1♠. Partner bids 1NT, showing 11-14 balanced, and RHO passes. What next?
- b) You are unfavourable, again, and opponents bid, uncontested, 2♣*-2♠*-3♥-4♥-5♣-5♦-6♥. You have ♠63 ♥42 ♦A98 ♣KJ8652. You establish that 2♣ was artificial and strong, 2♠ showed 3 controls and the rest of the auction was what you might expect. What do you lead?

Scylla and Charybdis

Norman Selway does not play as much bridge these days as he used to, having a young family, but he showed that he has lost none of his skill on this deal which justly won the best-played hand prize:

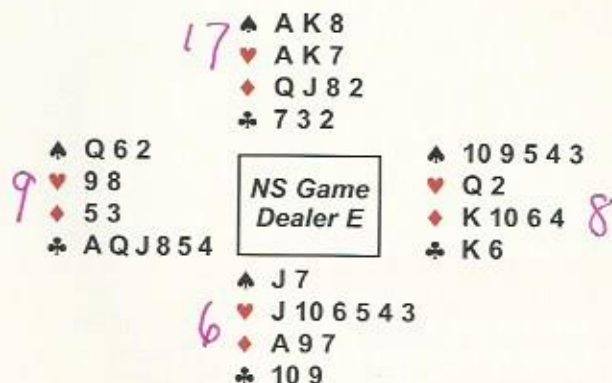
♠ 5	♥ K J 7 5	♦ A 6 5 4	♣ A K 10 8
15	♠ A Q J 8 7 2	♥ 9 4	♠ 6 3
11	♥ Q 10 7	♣ Q 3	♥ 10 6 2
	Love All Dealer W		♦ K 9 3 2
	♠ K 10 9 4	♥ A Q 8 3	♣ J 9 7 6
	10	♦ J 8	
	♣ 5 4 2		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Matheson	Vail	Coyle	Selway
1♠	Double	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

West could have defeated the contract by leading a minor suit, which takes out an entry to North prematurely, but quite naturally he chose a trump. Selway won with the queen and led the jack of diamonds, and when West covered he ducked. East had

Ten Pin

The point-a-board format makes the overtrick in a standard game contract very important and Colin Simpson took advantage of a slip by East on this hand to win the board.



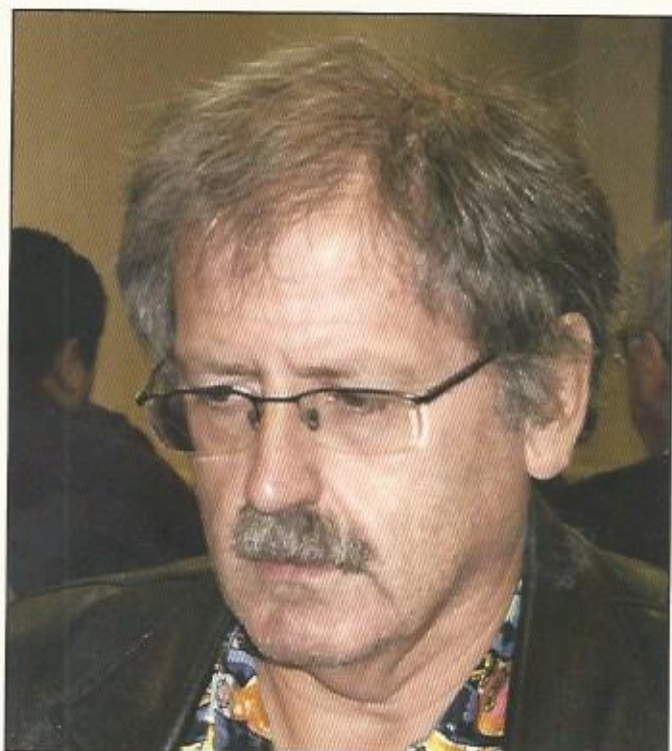
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Scheps</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Popham</i>	<i>Simpson</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

North has an awkward bid over Three Clubs and elected to pass, but Colin Simpson balanced on the South hand and was soon in game. West led a normal diamond – indeed the almost universal choice, and the queen was covered by the king and ace. Simpson drew trumps in two rounds and led a club off dummy. Now East needs to play low, so that his partner can win and play a second diamond. However, Popham went in with the king, and played a second club to West who played a diamond but it was too late. Simpson rose with dummy's jack of diamonds, ruffed the last club and ran the trumps. East was forced to come down to the doubleton ten of spades and Simpson pinned it in the three-card ending, scoring the last trick with the eight of spades.

No defender found the line of ducking the club with East, but it is clear to do so. If South had something like ♠xx ♥J10xxx ♦Axx ♣Ax, then East could indeed be endplayed on the second round of clubs, after declarer has ruffed a spade. But surely West would have led a top club in this case.

Low Punch

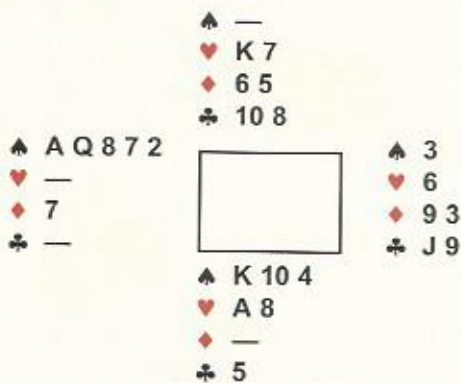
There was interest in both the bidding and defence on the next hand. Only two pairs reached the top spot of Four Spades on the following deal, and only one managed to make it.



Peter Hasenson

Norman Selway

no resource. He actually played low and West played a second heart which declarer won in dummy, cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. He now crossed to a top club and ruffed another diamond and then crossed to a second top club, drew the last trump, and then ducked a spade to West. West played the ace of spades, but North threw a club on that and declarer had ten tricks. Even prettier is the line if East overtakes the diamond to play a spade through. West wins and exits with a trump, but a new threat emerges. North wins, cashes two top clubs and plays the ace of diamonds on which West can try unblocking the ten, but declarer leads a small diamond from dummy in this ending:



East is single-suit squeezed; if he rises with the nine of diamonds, dummy's last diamond becomes a winner; if he plays small, South discards a club and West is endplayed.



Gordon Rainsford

Mike Hill (Chairman of the LMBA), Brian Callaghan (the judge) and Heather and Jeremy Dhondy with their prizes for the best bid hand

<p>15</p> <p>♠ J 6 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A K 8 6 4 2 ♣ A K 7</p>	<p>3</p> <p>♠ 5 3 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ J 10 9 5 ♣ 10 5 3 2</p>	<p>Love All Dealer W</p>	<p>10</p> <p>♠ A Q 10 9 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ 7 ♣ Q J 9 8 4</p>
<p>WEST Paterson 1NT Pass 3♦ 4♠</p>	<p>12</p> <p>♠ K 8 7 4 ♥ A K 10 9 7 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ 6</p>	<p>NORTH McIntosh Pass Pass Pass All Pass</p>	<p>EAST Short 2♥* 3♣ 3♠</p>
<p>SOUTH Hallberg Double Pass Pass</p>			

In the Gold Cup v Spring Fours match, Paterson treated his hand as a strong NT after which it was normal for East to offer a choice of games, and West chose the better one. Hallberg led a top heart and North showed an odd number and Gunnar now continued with two more rounds of hearts. Short wrongly ruffed with the jack and took the spade finesse, but Hallberg won and played a fourth heart which McIntosh ruffed with the five of spades promoting a trump trick. Declarer should ruff with the six of spades on the first round and then run the jack, playing small from East. He can then return to East with a club and continue trumps with the ace and another. This way he still makes an overtrick when North has ♠Kx and only goes off when South has a club void. This takes nothing away from Hallberg's fine defence, which beats the contract by force whenever North has the doubleton nine or ten of spades.

The best auction was judged to be the following by Jeremy and Heather Dhondy:

WEST J Dhondy 1♦ Double 3♦ 4♠	NORTH McIntosh Pass Pass Pass All Pass	EAST H Dhondy 1♠ 3♣ 3♠	SOUTH Hallberg 2♥ Pass Pass
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The double showed extra values, and East's bid of Three Spades, stressing the spade suit, was the key.

Twelve Top

David Bakhshi was recruited at the last minute for the Irish team, but his partnership with Tommy Garvey went well, and they were the only pair to bid the cold slam on the following, which was the other candidate for the best bid hand.

<p>19</p> <p>♠ A Q 4 2 ♥ A K 8 7 ♦ K 7 ♣ K 4 2</p>	<p>4</p> <p>♠ 10 9 7 5 3 ♥ 3 ♦ A 8 2 ♣ 9 7 6 5</p>	<p>EW Game Dealer E</p>	<p>11</p> <p>♠ K J ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ Q J 10 5 4 ♣ A 10 3</p>
<p>WEST Bakhshi — 1♠ 6NT</p>	<p>6</p> <p>♠ 8 6 ♥ Q J 10 6 2 ♦ 9 6 3 ♣ Q J 8</p>	<p>NORTH J Dhondy — Pass All Pass</p>	<p>EAST Garvey 1♣* 1NT</p>
<p>SOUTH Hallberg Double Pass Pass</p>			

One club was clubs or balanced, and the 1NT rebid showed 11-14. The perfect mesh seems to be the key to success here, but I was surprised to find that a simulation using Bridge Dealer and Deep Finesse showed that 6NT was likely to be odds on after a 1♥ overall by South even when East has 11-12 balanced. Several players invited with 4NT on the West hand, usually on uncontested auctions, and East understandably passed. And many did not regard that East hand as a vulnerable opening bid – for example, Tosh thought it was quite a bit short of an opening bid in his methods with Gunnar – and if East passed it was tough to reach slam. Another factor which came out of the simulations was the power of the 87 of hearts, either resulting in some squeeze against South, or sometimes producing four heart tricks when East has a holding like J9x or J10x. An ideal hand for a bidding challenge.

Leading Question

If the last hand was a tough bidding problem then the opening lead problem you were given earlier is even tougher.



Gordon Rainsford

Four of the winning team, Colin Simpson, Gunnar Hallberg, Andrew McIntosh and David Price. Martin Jones and Neil Rosen had to leave before the presentation.

♠ 9 4 2
 ♥ 10 7 5
 ♦ K 7 4 3
 ♣ A 9 4
 EW Game Dealer S
 ♠ Q J 10
 ♥ Q
 ♦ Q 10 6 5 2
 ♣ Q 10 7 3
 ♠ A K 8 7 5
 ♥ A K J 9 8 6 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ —

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dixon	Short	Silverstone	Paterson
—	—	—	2♣*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

Chris Dixon found out that North had three controls, so presumably one was the king of diamonds, and the other is probably one of the black aces. It seems that any major

suit finesse is likely to be right, and the ace of diamonds is inside too, so he thought desperate measures were called for and he led the eight of diamonds. Jack Paterson must have thought it was curtains, but he had the perspicacity to go up with the king. I am sure he would have bid the same way with ♠AKQx ♥AKJxxxx ♦Jx ♣—, so I think Chris was very unlucky here. Martin Jones, John Atthey and Mike Vail all led the ♦A against slam, Martin seemingly after much changing of mind.

At a few tables North-South stopped short of slam, and in another the trump lead against Six Hearts did not test the declarer unduly.

Line and Length

Gloucestershire spent many years trying to win the Tollemache trophy, the county championship at bridge, and finally succeeded this year. They did not have as long a wait as their cricket team which last won the County Championship in 1877, before the age of WG Grace, and even then it was unofficial! Andrew Kambites has been a regular in the team, and as a former maths teacher and computer programmer, he would have enjoyed the challenge of trying to work out the best line:

♠ A 10 8 7 6 4 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ A K
 20
 ♠ 9 5
 ♥ A 8 6 2
 ♦ 9 5 4 3 2
 ♣ 8 7
 EW Game Dealer S
 ♠ Q J
 ♥ K 9 7 5 4
 ♦ 7
 ♣ Q J 6 5 4
 ♠ K 2
 ♥ Q J 3
 ♦ J 10 8 6
 ♣ 10 9 3 2
 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Kambites	Garvey	Atthey
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

THE FINAL SCORES

	SPR	IRE	PRE	EUR	TOL	YOU	CRO	GOL	Total
Spring Fours		40	22	36	41	32	55	48	274
Ireland	20		33	33	39	42	45	45	257
President's	38	27		22	17	43	44	43	234
Europe Mixed	24	27	38		32	13	46	43	223
Tollemache	19	21	43	28		27	16	39	193
Young Chelsea	28	18	17	47	33		19	29	191
Crockfords	5	15	16	14	44	41		31	166
Gold Cup	12	14.5	17	17	21	31	29		141.5