

The Last shall be First

Paul Lamford

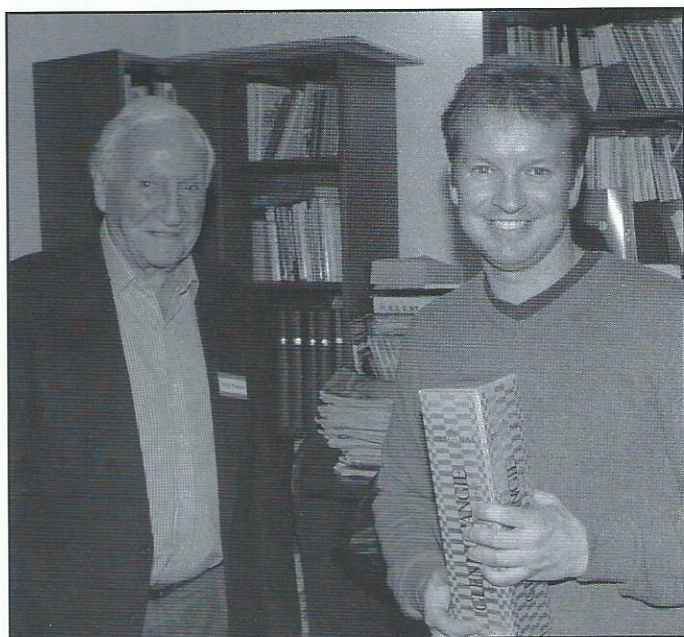
The teams for the Lederer are normally invited well in advance, and the impressive winners of last year's Premier League were clearly worth their place, especially as two of the team were Lederer winners four years ago. However, they had a poor Premier League campaign this year, getting relegated along with Jeremy Dhondy's quartet. They added the fine pairing of Erichsen and Selway to their Premier League team, and the effect proved to be dramatic. They took the lead by beating the President's team in round four and never looked back.

Surprisingly all three of the prizes, judged by Brian Callaghan, Sally Brock and your author, came from the first sheet of hands. It was not clear whether this was because the players or the judges wilted as the event wore on, but there were candidates later on which did not usurp the early choices. The winning hand of for the best play award, won by Espen Erichsen, came as early as set one.

Breaking Bad

♠ 5	♠ AJ	♠ KQ1087432
♥ 8764	♥ Q109	♥ A5
♦ J976	♦ AKQ1084	♦ 3
♣ KJ84	♣ 92	♣ Q10

Game All
Dealer W



Espen Erichsen collecting his best play award from Tony Priday

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Forrester</i>	<i>Erichsen</i>	<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Selway</i>
Pass	1NT	4♠	Double
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

Espen Erichsen showed good card-reading on the above hand, and earned his side a double game swing. He opened a strong no-trump and pulled his partner's card-showing double of 4♠ to 5♦. East led a top spade and Espen won, cashed a top diamond and advanced the ten of hearts. East should probably duck this, but Espen would just have continued with a second heart. Instead East won, cashed the top spade, and exited with the ten of clubs. Espen won in dummy and finessed the diamond to land his game. Given that the spades are 8-1, the chance of West having the jack of diamonds has risen to 70%, while the chance of a 3-2 break has dropped to 35%, so his line is twice as good as playing for the drop.

In the other room, North, Allfrey, opened 1♦ and North-South gave in to East's 4♠ overcall, which seems a bit conservative. Robson led a trump, and North won, cashed the king of diamonds, South giving normal count, and then switched to the ten of hearts. East won, drew the two remaining trumps and played the queen of clubs. South won with the ace and played back a diamond, allowing East to claim. Clearly South thought East had to have the queen of diamonds from North's play of the king, but he would have an awkward guess in any case. East could equally be 8-1-2-2 or 8-2-1-2.

Not Josephine Today

Brian Callaghan remembers playing 5NT as pick a slam many moons ago, and this convention worked well on the following hand in which Zia and his Swedish partner, Fredrik Bjornlund won the best-bid hand:

♠ 104	♠ AQ	♠ 853
♥ 10943	♥ AKQJ652	♥ 87
♦ KQ876	♦ 3	♦ J952
♣ A10	♣ Q52	♣ 9864

Game All
Dealer W

♠ KJ9762
♥ —
♦ A104
♣ KJ73

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Bjornlund</i>	<i>Bell</i>	<i>Zia</i>
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

GENERAL INTEREST

(diagram repeated for convenience)

	♠ AQ	
	♥ AKQJ652	
	♦ 3	
	♣ Q52	
♠ 104		♠ 853
♥ 10943		♥ 87
♦ KQ876		♦ J952
♣ A10		♣ 9864
	♠ KJ9762	
	♥ —	
	♦ A104	
	♣ KJ73	

This table was the only one to reach Six Hearts – Hinden and Osborne had a good auction to the inferior but very reasonable Six Spades. Where North opened something showing a good 4♥ bid, that is where he played. Fredrik's 2♣

showed a very good hand. Zia bid spades and clubs naturally, while Fredrik showed a minimum with hearts. Zia still judged to move, and when North showed delayed spade support, he asked Fredrik to pick a slam with 5NT. North settled on his pretty solid heart suit, and declarer was able to claim when neither rounded suit proved to be 5-1.



A rare photograph: Zia's table not surrounded by spectators

Trump Rewards

The best defended hand featured a slight risk by East, who relied on his partner having the nine of trumps, and in South not finding a winning line. This was a bit of a gamble, as declarer was Espen Erichsen, but Simon Gillis was prepared to take the chance.

	♠ Q83	
	♥ AK10873	
	♦ 10	
	♣ Q108	
♠ 92		♠ J106
♥ 642		♥ Q9
♦ J9852		♦ A73
♣ K73		♣ A9642
	♠ AK754	
	♥ J5	
	♦ KQ64	
	♣ J5	

**Game All
Dealer W**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Selway	Gillis	Erichsen
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

The defenders did well to start with three rounds of clubs. Espen Erichsen threw a diamond on the third round. He might have done better to throw a heart, play the ace of hearts and ruff a heart, relying on both majors to break 3-2. He always needs a 3-2 trump break anyway, so this is probably the best line. Winning with the queen of clubs, he led a diamond off the dummy, and Simon Gillis, pictured receiving his award from Tony Priday, rose with the ace of diamonds to play a fourth round of clubs, which Gunnar ruffed with the nine. Now declarer could have got home by running the eight of spades, but why should he do that when he will succeed if the remaining trumps are 2-2?



Simon Gillis receiving his award from Tony Priday

Big Slick

	♠ Q6	
	♥ J109	
	♦ Q9743	
	♣ J75	
♠ 9743		♠ AKJ102
♥ 43		♥ A652
♦ A82		♦ 106
♣ K942		♣ Q3
	♠ 85	
	♥ KQ87	
	♦ KJ5	
	♣ A1086	

**EW Game
Dealer E**

WEST <i>Penfold</i> — 2NT	NORTH <i>McGann</i> — Pass	EAST <i>Senior</i> 1♠ 4♠	SOUTH <i>Hanlon</i> Double All Pass
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An ace and a king is a very powerful starting hand in Texas Holdem, as top poker-player Tom Hanlon, South on this deal, would know, but it is not normally regarded as enough for a limit raise. However, Sandra Penfold's aggressive action proved to be the winner. Some Wests showed a weak or mixed raise and that led to East signing off, but here Nevena had no qualms about bidding the cold game. There was nothing to the play, and if South had a singleton queen of spades, East would have been able to ruff the fourth heart with the nine. This makes the vulnerable game at least 50%, but only Senior and Penfold bid it.

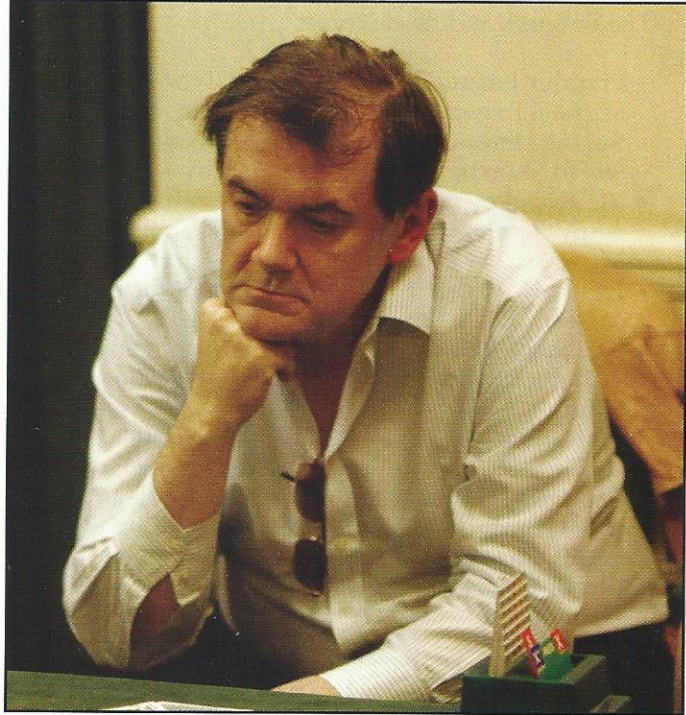
Deadly Throw In

The throw-ins, or should that be throws-in, of the Stoke City footballer (soccer for our US readers) Rory Delap cause havoc in the opposing penalty area. Tony Forrester missed a chance for such a coup on the following hand:

♠ 109862	♠ J3	♠ AKQ
♥ J	♥ 873	♥ K9654
♦ 764	♦ Q983	♦ K2
♣ AK86	♣ Q932	♣ J105
	Love All Dealer W	
	♠ 754	
	♥ AQ102	
	♦ AJ105	
	♣ 74	

WEST <i>Forrester</i> Pass 2♣* 2♠* 4♠	NORTH <i>Skorchev</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass	EAST <i>Bakhshi</i> 1NT 2♦ 4♥ Pass	SOUTH <i>Trendafilov</i> Pass Pass Pass Pass
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West intended his sequence to show an invitational hand with spades, but it was interpreted as an invitational hand with both majors, apparently the systemic meaning. Forrester and Bakhshi last played together 12 months ago, so they were not a well-oiled machine. Four Spades did not make at any table, but Forrester had a chance to bring it home. North made the unlucky choice of the two of clubs, where another suit would have given Forrester no chance. Declarer put on the ten, and South played the four, reverse count. Now declarer crossed back to a top club, and ran the jack of hearts on which North played the seven, again reverse count. South won with the queen and exited with a trump. Forrester ruffed a heart, crossed to a spade and ruffed another heart. It seemed very likely that the heart ace was with South, as North might have risen if he had it. Doing so might have beaten the contract if South had 10xx of spades, as three rounds of diamonds would have promoted a trump trick.



Tony Forrester deep in thought against the Bulgarians

After much thought, Forrester played the ace of clubs and South ruffed and played back the ace of hearts defeating the contract. The winning line was to draw the trump and exit with a heart. If the clubs are 3-3, this would have worked as well, so I cannot see the layout Tony was playing for, as if North had a doubleton club – and the Bulgarians do lead low from a doubleton – then surely South would have given North a club ruff.



The Bulgarian/English quartet of Trendafilov, Senior, Penfold and Skorchev

GENERAL INTEREST

The line-ups and final scores:

- **Premier League:** Espen Erichsen, Norman Selway, Michael Byrne, Mike Bell, Neil Rosen, Martin Jones
- **Spring Fours:** Sandra Penfold, Nevena Senior, Stefan Skorchev, Rumen Trendafilov
- **YC Knockout:** Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Andy Bowles, John Howard, Mike Scoltock, Barry Myers.
- **Ireland:** Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon, Adam Mesbur, Nick Fitzgibbon
- **President's Team:** Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, William Coyle, John Matheson, Tony Waterlow, Ian Panto
- **HOLDERS:** David Bakhshi, Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester, Peter Crouch
- **Scotland (Commonwealth Gold):** Brian Spears, John Murdoch, Derek Sanders, Derek Diamond
- **Gold Cup:** Simon Gillis, Zia Mahmood, Fredrik Bjornlund, Robert Sheehan, Gunnar Hallberg, David Burn

LEDERER TROPHY 2011 - FINAL RESULTS

vs team:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	RANK
1 PREMIER LEAGUE		34	41	20	42	48	46	20	251	1
2 SPRING FOURSOMES	26		25	45	42	26	33	28	225	2
3 YOUNG CHELSEA	19	35		26	18	42	43	37	220	3
4 IRELAND	40	15	34		32	39	21	25	206	4
5 PRESIDENT'S TEAM	18	18	42	28		17	41	37	201	5
6 HOLDERS	12	34	18	21	43		26	41	195	6
7 SCOTLAND	14	27	17	39	19	34		42	192	7
8 GOLD CUP	40	32	23	35	23	19	18		190	8



Les and Irene Hough (Roehampton) collecting their trophy from Tony Priday – clearly bridge is a game for all ages



The winning team, Erichsen, Rosen, Jones, Byrne and Bell (with Tony Priday; Selway also played on the Saturday)

Veteran campaigner Tony Priday, who will shortly celebrate his 90th birthday, presented the prizes. Espen Erichsen of the winning team dedicated the win to his father-in-law who had sadly died that day. Ian Payn, LMBA Chairman, thanked all who contributed to the success of the Lederer, particularly the manager Stefanie Rohan, the scorer Nigel Freake, and the main sponsor Bernard Teltscher. The members of the Young Chelsea Club also gave of their time to act as monitors, and directors donated their services free of charge. Brian Callaghan gave an excellent talk on the three awards in this article.

The Play with the Stars was sadly only held at one club this year, and the LMBA will be looking to rejuvenate the event next year. The Roehampton club who took part had a great time, and they very much hope the event will continue. The winners were Les and Irene Hough (teaming up with Tony Forrester and Peter Crouch) and Danny Gesua and Sally Birnage (teaming up with Zia and Fredrik Bjornlund). Any team wanting to enter the event – next year it will be free with great prizes – should contact paullamford@aol.com And put the event in your club calendar when the dates are announced.

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