

Holding the Trophy

by Paul Lamford

This year's Lederer, held on 29th and 30th September, was one of the strongest ever, and featured eight World Champions including Seniors and Women. The number of previous winners, at 18, was one down from last year's record. The weekend coincided with Europe retaining the Ryder Cup in Chicago, with a remarkable last day turnaround, and The Colonies, from the other side of the pond, had no joy here either, finishing last. They were popular visitors however, and had the consolation of a big win against the Crockfords team.



Joey Silver, a popular visitor

The Holders hit the front on the Sunday morning as the Spring Fours team faded and it was a surprise that their final margin of victory was as great as it was. Organiser Stefanie Rohan moved them off Vugraph in the final round, to allow the world to watch Zia and Robson doing battle. That attracted almost 2,000 viewers to BBO, so that change turned out to be wise. Young Chelsea made a Sunday charge to take second place, but they never threatened the leaders.

The awards for best play, defence, and bidding were all in the third and fourth segments, and were quite difficult decisions. We start with the best auction:

Her Majesty's Pleasure

Love all. Dealer West.

♠ K964	
♥ 75	
♦ 32	
♣ J9842	
♠ J5	♠ A1087
♥ J9	♥ AK86
♦ KJ9865	♦ AQ104
♣ AK10	♣ Q
♠ Q32	
♥ Q10432	
♦ 7	
♣ 7653	

West	North	East	South
<i>Howard</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Bowles</i>	<i>Holland</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Her Majesty The Queen sent a message to the EBU this year to congratulate them on their 75th anniversary. It was appropriate that the increased value of a queen played a part in the above hand. Andy Bowles, honest as ever, confided to me a day after the event that 2S was an artificial game force, so West should just rebid 3C rather than 3NT but the rest of the auction was good, and East knew at the end that the queen of clubs was a trick and there was no advantage in playing in the ten-card fit. The 3 IMPs for the higher-scoring slam and the point-a-board were a good reward. Andy has recently been appointed to the EBU selection committee for the next three years, along with David Burn, both regulars at Young Chelsea and in the London Super League held there. We are sure they will both do well in the role.



Andy Bowles

Scylla and Charybdis

NS Vul. Dealer North.

♠ KQ109	
♥ 106	
♦ A86	
♣ QJ84	
♠ J75	♠ A42
♥ AJ8	♥ Q4
♦ 73	♦ KQ952
♣ AK1076	♣ 952
♠ 863	
♥ K97532	
♦ J104	
♣ 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>McGann</i>	<i>Brock</i>	<i>Garvey</i>	<i>Smith</i>
	1♣*	1♦	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass



Hugh McGann

Two declarers reached the reasonable contract of 3NT here. Joe Fawcett reached it from the East hand on the lead of the jack of diamonds, and he could have made it more easily by playing on diamonds. Hugh McGann faced the more testing lead of the king of spades from Sally Brock, and, when he ducked, she continued with the queen to take out the entry from dummy. Now McGann, who knew North had a weak NT type hand, played a club to the king and ducked a club to North. Sally Brock did the best she could by continuing spades, but McGann won, finessed the heart and then cashed the ace, and played a diamond. North could win and cash the spade, but now she had the unenviable choice of the rock of leading a diamond, which resurrects the dummy, or the whirlpool of leading a club, allowing West to enjoy the club suit. Nine classy tricks. Fawcett reached a similar position but the prize went to McGann who had faced a much more challenging defence.

A Dying King

Love All. Dealer South.

♠ none
♥ Q1076
♦ J8653
♣ Q765

♠ 8542	♠ KQ1063
♥ A832	♥ J54
♦ AQ9	♦ 4
♣ A9	♣ K432

♠ AJ97
♥ K9
♦ K1072
♣ J108

West	North	East	South
Teltscher	Allerton	Silverstone	Lee
			1NT
2♣*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

*Authority forgets a dying king,
Laid widowed of the power in his eye*

wrote Tennyson. This is interpreted by many as meaning “new rules emerge” and South had to take this on board and realise that he had to sacrifice his king of hearts in order to beat the contract on the above hand. 2♣ was Landy and West was happy to accept the game try of 3♠ because of his good controls, despite his bad spades. South led the jack of clubs, which was won with the ace in dummy, and a spade to the queen revealed the bad news. South won that and played a second club, and East won, finessed the diamond, cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding a heart, and then cashed the ace of hearts, on which Peter Lee had to unblock the king. This he did and declarer could no longer get home. Tony Forrester made the contract, when his opponent failed to



unblock in a similar position, by exiting with a heart, ruffing the club return in dummy, ruffing a diamond, and playing the fourth club to endplay South.

The best defended hand therefore went to Peter Lee, a former British Chess Champion, and in chess the king can never be sacrificed!

Ian Payn, LMBA Chairman, announces the prize awards, which Brian Callaghan explains.

Line-ups and scores

- **Holders:**. Espen Erichsen, Norman Selway, Michael Byrne, Mike Bell, Neil Rosen, Martin Jones
- **Young Chelsea:** Kitty Teltscher, Sally Brock, Nicola Smith, Colin Simpson, David Price
- **Crockfords:** Andrew Robson, Alexander Allfrey, Tony Forrester, David Gold, Peter Crouch, Derek Patterson
- **Spring Fours:** Glyn Liggins, Joe Fawcett, Ben Green, John Holland
- **President's Team:** Bernard Teltscher, William Coyle, John Matheson, Willie Coyle, Tom Townsend, Gunnar Hallberg
- **All Stars:** Hugh McGann, Tommy Garvey, Zia Mahmood, Fredrik Bjornlund
- **Gold Cup:** Frances Hinden, Graham Osborne, Andy Bowles, John Howard, Jeffrey Allerton, Peter Lee
- **The Colonies:** Joey Silver, John Carruthers, Milt Rosenberg, Howie Weinstein

	vs team:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
1	 HOLDERS		38	45	46	27	41	29	41	267
2	 Y. CHELSEA	22		23	24	40	36	44	51	240
3	 CROCKFORDS	15	37		51	39	50	28	10	230
4	 SPRING FOURS	14	36	9		35	42	36	46	218
5	 PRESIDENT'S	33	20	21	25		29	39	50	217
6	 ALL STARS	19	24	10	18	31		49	39	190
7	 GOLD CUP	31	16	32	24	21	11		31	166
6	 THE COLONIES	19	9	50	14	10	21	29		152



The winning team: Bell, Byrne, Erichsen and Selway, with Bernard Teltscher, LMBA President (seated)

LMBA Chairman, Ian Payn, introduced the winners at a well-attended closing ceremony and reception, splendidly laid on by Christine Duckworth and Trish Matheson. He thanked the main organiser Stefanie Rohan, the analysts Brian Callaghan, David Burn and your author, and the scorer Nigel Freake. In addition the help of many of the Young Chelsea members who gave up their time free of charge, including the directors Jon Lillycrop and Gordon Rainsford, helped to make the event a success. Gordon is now leaving the Young Chelsea to take up the job of Chief Director of



the EBU, and we wish him every success.

Ian also thanked the LMBA President for his continued sponsorship and Bernard Teltscher, who presented the prizes, indicated that this would definitely continue next year. The Play with the Stars was held at three clubs, which was two more than last year. Pictured, above, is 95 year old Sheila Peers (Roehampton), with Bernard Teltscher. She and her husband scored +56 playing with Nicola Smith and Sally Brock, while Marina Grose (Andrew Robson BC, pictured left) scored +49 partnering Zia and Fredrik Bjornlund.

Thanks are due to Gordon Rainsford for the photographs in this article. Please contact paulamford@aol.com if your club wants to hold a heat next year.