

# Taking the Fifth

**Simon Cochemé reports on the 2002 Lederer**

THE 2002 Lederer Memorial Trophy, held in honour of Richard and Tony Lederer, is the UK's top invitation event. It is organised by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and hosted by the Young Chelsea Bridge Club.

The event started in 1945 as a competition between London clubs, becoming an international invitation event in 1978. The list of winners reads like a Who's Who of British bridge, with the names of Marx, Meredith, Harrison-Gray, McLeod and Markus appearing in the early years.

The All Stars team of Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Robert Sheehan and Colin Simpson were going for their fifth successive win. Their main competition was expected to come from Ireland, London and the President's team, all previous winners, as well as debutants Australia and Wales. The eight teams played a 12-board round robin, with 60 Victory Points at stake per match, a mixture of IMPs and point-a-board.

The All Stars began their defence of the title against London on VuGraph.

<p>♠ J 9 6 ♥ A 5 2 ♦ K 9 ♣ K 10 8 6 5</p>	<p>♠ K Q ♥ K 10 8 7 ♦ A Q J 8 7 ♣ Q 4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>EW Game Dealer W</b></p> </div> <p>♠ A 10 8 7 4 ♥ 6 ♦ 10 5 ♣ J 9 7 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 5 3 2 ♥ Q J 9 4 3 ♦ 6 4 3 2 ♣ A</p>	
<p><b>WEST</b> <i>Callaghan</i> 1♦<sup>1</sup> <b>Double</b><sup>2</sup> <b>Pass</b> <b>Pass</b> <b>Pass</b></p>	<p><b>NORTH</b> <i>Mahmood</i> <b>Pass</b> <b>Redouble</b> <b>Double</b> <b>3NT</b> <b>4♠</b></p>	<p><b>EAST</b> <i>Burn</i> 1♥ 2♥ <b>Pass</b> <b>Double</b> <b>All Pass</b></p>	<p><b>SOUTH</b> <i>Robson</i> 1♠ <b>Pass</b> <b>3♣</b> <b>Pass</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> could be as short as two    <sup>2</sup> 3-card support for hearts

Andrew Robson made the lightest of overcalls, after which Zia with his 17-count was never going to stay out of game. There seem to be ten tricks available in 3NT, but no way of getting to and fro between the hands to make them all. When Zia removed 3NT doubled to Four Spades East might have begun to regret his double. Only an unlikely small club lead beats Four Spades and on the lead of the king of diamonds Robson was not in any difficulty. He won in dummy, cashed the king and queen of spades and came to hand with the ten of diamonds. Robson drew the outstanding trumps with the ace and led his heart towards the king. The defenders could not

now prevent an overtrick. After a club switch to his bare ace, East had to lead a red card and give declarer access to the winners in dummy. No North/South pair in the other three matches bid to game.

The All Stars were one off in Two Hearts in the other room for an 8 IMP gain and they went on to win the match narrowly, by 33 VPs to 27.

The All Stars faced the Juniors in Round 2.

<p>♠ Q 9 8 6 3 ♥ 5 2 ♦ 7 ♣ Q 10 7 6 3</p>	<p>♠ K J 10 4 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q J ♣ K 9 5 4 2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>Game All Dealer S</b></p> </div> <p>♠ A 5 ♥ A Q J 9 7 3 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ A J</p>	<p>♠ 7 2 ♥ K 10 6 4 ♦ 10 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 8</p>	
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<p><b>WEST</b> <i>Levy</i> — <b>Pass</b> <b>Pass</b></p>	<p><b>NORTH</b> <i>Sheehan</i> — <b>3♣</b> <b>6NT</b></p>	<p><b>EAST</b> <i>Woodcock</i> — <b>Pass</b> <b>All Pass</b></p>	<p><b>SOUTH</b> <i>Simpson</i> <b>2NT</b> 4♥</p>
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Colin Simpson & Robert Sheehan had a swift auction to 6NT after Simpson had opened an off-centre 2NT. Ed Levy found the unfortunate lead of the six of clubs round to the jack. Simpson crossed to dummy with a diamond and took a heart finesse. On this trick East played the six and West the five. Declarer played the ace of hearts, both opponents completing peters. Away from the bridge table Colin Simpson had a successful career in the police force and he decided that (a) the Juniors were honest and (b) they were both showing an even number of hearts. He cashed the ace of clubs (East showing out), the ace of spades and took a spade finesse. He now played his two winning diamonds, on which West threw a club and a spade. This was the ending, with the lead in dummy:

<p>♠ Q 9 ♥ — ♦ — ♣ Q 10</p>	<p>♠ K J ♥ — ♦ — ♣ K 9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>Game All Dealer S</b></p> </div> <p>♠ — ♥ J 9 7 3 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ K 10 ♦ 10 6 ♣ —</p>	
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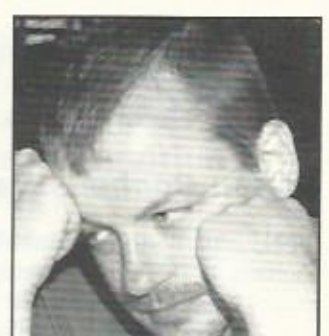
Robert Sheehan



Colin Simpson



Hugh McGann



Tom Hanlon

It was now a simple matter to throw West in with a club and endplay him in spades. Five of the eight North/South pairs bid a slam, but only Simpson was successful.

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

In the face of some disruptive bidding by East/West, only two pairs managed to bid and make game on the North/South cards. Here is a typical sequence where the President's Team were North/South against Australia:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Gill</i>	<i>Breskal</i>	<i>Casselton</i>	<i>Edwin</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
3♦	Double	4♦	4♠
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

West led his singleton heart and was able to get a heart ruff when his partner got in with the ace of trumps. Unlucky for the President's team that it wasn't West, the pre-emptor, who held doubleton honour in trumps, but lucky for them that Australia reached the same contract for a flat board.

The Juniors pre-empted even higher against the All Stars, but it worked against them, an example of more is less.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Byrne</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Robson</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♦	Double	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

With South making a forced bid of Four Spades, rather than a free bid, Zia elected to pass and gained 11 IMPs. I noted that Michael Byrne has at least two of the attributes required to become the next Andrew Robson. He is not afraid to bid and he is very tall.

The most exciting bidding on this hand came from the Irish:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>McGann</i>	—	<i>Hanlon</i>	
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT!	Double	Pass	Pass
2♣!	Double	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Such bidding tactics are not recommended for the faint-hearted but can work spectacularly well on occasion. Unfortunately for Hugh McGann his team-mates were one off in Five Spades in the other room, so his coup was in vain and they lost 5 IMPs.

After three rounds the leading positions were as follows:

Australia	119
Wales	118
All Stars	113
London	99

This was a big hand in nearly all the matches:

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Townsend</i>	<i>McGann</i>	<i>Gold</i>
—	Pass	1♦	2♣
2♠	4♦*	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	5♠	Pass
Pass	6♣	Double	All Pass

Of the eight players to hold the North hand, three passed, two opened One Heart, two opened Two Hearts and one opened Four Hearts. In the featured match between London and Ireland Tom Townsend passed for



Tom Townsend



David Gold



Andrew Robson



Zia Mahmood

London and then bid a diversionary Four Diamonds on the way to Five Clubs. Five Spades would have been one off on top (two off if North-South can engineer a trump promotion in hearts after cashing three tricks), but Townsend decided to bid Six Clubs, hoping that his secret heart suit would come in useful, or that Ireland might go on to Six Spades.

When Hanlon chose to lead an optimistic ace of spades, a big swing was in prospect. Declarer ruffed in dummy and called for a small club. East produced the two and the world (well, the VuGraph audience) waited for David Gold to play from his hand. If he got the clubs right he would make a doubled overtrick. After an age he decided to finesse and the contract was two down, 500 to Ireland, who also got plus 300 from Six Spades doubled in the other room. 13 IMPs to Ireland, contributing to a win by 47 VPs to 13.

Elsewhere the Juniors were also two off doubled in Six Clubs on the lead of the ace of spades against Australia who were one off in Five Spades at the other table. Zia dropped the king of clubs and made Five Hearts doubled for the All Stars against the Young Chelsea team who beat Six Spades undoubled by two in the other room. The board was flat in a mundane Four Spades in the match between the President's Team and Wales.

I thought this was the hand of the tournament, where the All Stars faced the President's Team on VuGraph in the last round:

<p>♠ Q 3 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ K J 8 ♣ J 7 4 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 4 ♥ Q J 7 6 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ A K 10</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <p><b>NS Game Dealer W</b></p> </div> <p>♠ A K 8 6 5 ♥ A K 10 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 8 6 5</p>	<p>♠ J 10 2 ♥ 9 5 ♦ Q 10 7 6 4 2 ♣ Q 9</p>	
<p><b>WEST</b> <i>Matheson</i> Pass 3♦ Pass</p>	<p><b>NORTH</b> <i>Robson</i> 1♣* 4♠ 6♥</p>	<p><b>EAST</b> <i>Coyle</i> 2♦ Pass All Pass</p>	<p><b>SOUTH</b> <i>Mahmood</i> 2♠ 5♥</p>

Andrew Robson opened One Club as North. Brushing aside the opposition bidding, Robson and Zia reached

Four Spades. When Zia bid Five Hearts Robson realised that if this was a four-card suit, Zia's shape was likely to be 5-4-1-3. In that case twelve tricks might be available in hearts and only eleven tricks in spades. And so it proved. The diamond lead was won, trumps drawn, a diamond ruffed and a spade conceded. They made it look easy, but bidding to a slam in a completely new suit when you have already reached game is something special.

Colin Simpson, sitting East for the All Stars at the other table, psyched a One Spade overcall and nearly engineered a memorable coup.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Sheehan</i>	<i>Breskal</i>	<i>Simpson</i>	<i>Edwin</i>
Pass	1♥	1♠	4♦*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♥*
All Pass			

Geoffrey Breskal & David Edwin, part of the President's team that won in 1995 and 1997, bid to Six Hearts with the aid of a Four Diamond splinter and simple Blackwood for aces and kings. Breskal had noted Simpson's One Spade overcall, so he won the diamond lead, drew trumps in three rounds ending in dummy and played a small spade. This safety play would enable him to make the contract if East held all five spades, as suggested by his overcall, or if West held any singleton. On the actual lay-out, if West had played low on the first spade, East winning with the ten, then Breskal would surely have finessed on the second round, losing to West's queen. Alas for history, Sheehan went up with queen and the board was flat.

The final leader board was as follows:

- 1 All Stars (Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Robert Sheehan, Colin Simpson) 296
- 2 Australia (Peter Gill, Ian Casselton, Jason Pitt, Anthony Silver) 248
- 3 London (David Burn, Brian Callaghan, David Gold, Tom Townsend) 231
- 4 Ireland (Tom Hanlon, Hugh McGann, Rory Boland, Pat Walshe) 219

So the All Stars win five in row and, despite losing two matches, had a record score. Tribute for a successful tournament should be paid to Bernard Teltscher (Sponsor), Chris Duckworth (Tournament Manager), Warwick Pitch and all the volunteer helpers from the Young Chelsea.