



London Trophy winners Don Fry, Joyce Brown, Sally Young and Doug Dungate, with event organiser Cecil Leighton, second left

Unique tournament draws a ton of teams

By Maureen Dennison

THE Della Porta London Trophy for the Home Counties must be unique in the tournament calendar. It is simple system, knockout teams, played aggregate. Only one member can be above National Master and it is open to organisations that are not bridge clubs. The entry fee is a modest £12 a team to cover organisation expenses.

Thus it attracts teams – well over a 100 this year – from all kinds of sporting and other clubs, including the Law Society. The Treasury Department always has an entry and Customs and Excise has been known to take part.

The final is played at Queen's Club the week before the Stella Artois.

While many of the entrants are EBU members, it is not a requirement of entry, so it is a relaxed and friendly way of introducing less experienced players to competitive events.

This year the final was won by Farnham Golf Club (Sally Young, Don Fry, Doug Dungate and Joyce Brown), who beat MCC Marigold (Mike Pitel, Rob Buxton, Geoff Ellis and David Selman) by 330 aggregate points after trailing by 600 at half time. A slam swing in the second half was the telling blow.

I have some sympathy for Doug Dungate when he made a slam try, ended in five and ran into a club ruff when they broke 6-1. However, Farnham got it back when the Marigold declarer forgot to count his tricks and misplayed on the following layout:

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| E-W Game | ♠ 8 |
| Dealer East | ♥ 65 |
| | ♦ A K Q 7 3 |
| | ♣ 10 8 7 4 2 |
| ♠ A K J 10 4 | ♠ 5 3 2 |
| ♥ 10 9 | ♥ A J 8 7 4 |
| ♦ J 9 8 | ♦ 2 |
| ♣ A 5 3 | ♣ K Q J 9 |
| | ♠ Q 9 7 6 |
| | ♥ K Q 3 2 |
| | ♦ 10 6 5 4 |
| | ♣ 6 |

All four tables declared in spades E-W after N-S had completed in diamonds. The other three played in four and made 10 tricks. Pitel had to decide whether to take the money in 5♦ or bid 5♠. He chose the latter and was doubled by South.

North led a top diamond and switched to a heart, taken with the ace. Pitel took the spade finesse and ruffed a diamond. He came back to hand with ♣A and ruffed his last diamond. Now he could no longer pick up the spade queen. However, if instead he takes a second spade finesse, he will emerge with five spades, one heart, one diamond ruff and four club tricks for his contract. How easy it is to take your eye off the ball. It was to be a costly slip.

The Plate, the consolation event for those eliminated in the first round, was won by Chislehurst GC (Dennis Russell, Neil Wotherspoon, Kay Goldsmith and James McGrath), who beat Reform Club (Anthony Harris, Ivan Kingston, Richard Pollitzer and John Reid) in the final by 1,920 aggregate points.

Groups of people from the same organisation, be it church or school, business or guild, or a club interested in entering next time, should contact event organiser Cecil Leighton at 6 The Bowles, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell IG7 6NB (020 8500 0700). Entries are required by early September.

ONAL CARD

Evans, of London:
 tion cards with our opponents, we
 y wife said: 'I had my usual four points.'
 onded: 'You should have entered that on