

# Hit for Six

## *Simon Cochemé reports on the 2003 Lederer*

The 57<sup>th</sup> contest for the Lederer Memorial Trophy, held in honour of Richard and Tony Lederer, was played at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in October. It was organised by the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and sponsored by LMBA President Bernard Teltscher.

The All Stars, led by Zia Mahmood, were going for their sixth successive win. Strong competition had been invited, including overseas teams from Australia, North America and France. The Australian and North American teams each had a pair (Antoff - Simpson and Doub - Wildavsky) who were on their way to Monte Carlo to play for the Bermuda Bowl. The Gold Cup Winners were expected to lead the home challenge. The eight teams would play a twelve-board match against each other team, with 60 Victory Points at stake per match, a combination of IMPs and point-a-board.

Board one got the event off with a bang. The spectators who arrived a little late missed some great action.

Love All	♠	983		
Dealer N	♥	K108654		
	♦	4		
	♣	AQ5		
♠	KQJ107		♠	A6542
♥	2		♥	9
♦	AKJ8		♦	10
♣	K72		♣	J109643
	♠	-		
	♥	AQJ73		
	♦	Q976532		
	♣	8		

You are looking at the South hand and partner opens a weak Two Hearts. What is your plan? I like the 4NT bid suggested by Brian Callaghan on VuGraph, although on this particular layout West is probably too strong for it to work. John Carruthers, playing for the Canadian half of the North American team, took the simple route against the England Ladies, also warming up on their way to Monte Carlo.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>H. Dhondy</i>	<i>J. Silver</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	2♥	Pass	5♥
Double	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Nicola Smith could not avoid losing a heart and two clubs, one down. At the other table in the same match Margaret James took the high road.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Wildavsky</i>	<i>N. Senior</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>James</i>
	2♥	Pass	6♥
Double	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Two down, doubled, and 6 IMPS to the Ladies. At one table in the match between the All Stars and the Young Chelsea Champions the 'simple' Carruthers route was taken and the result was the same, Five Spades one down. Zia was at the other table and he tried the scenic route.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Sheehan</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
	2♥	Pass	3♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♥
Double	Pass	5♠	5NT
Double	6♥	Pass	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	7♥
Pass	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

So the scenic route got Zia a good result in the end, but if Keith Bennett had doubled Seven Hearts (as he now wishes he had) it would have been a different story.

The third match was between the President's Team and the Gold Cup Winners. Things were different in that neither North opened Two Hearts. This was the bidding in the closed room, where Tony Priday started with a Multi Two Diamonds:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>
	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
5♠	Double	All Pass	

When North's suit turned out to be hearts (imagine South's surprise, and his relief that he would not have to toil in Two Spades doubled), David Bakhshi knew that South was limited in points and short in spades and made a brave bid of Four Spades. He went one off in Five Spades doubled, but had hopes of a good score if his team-mates were in hearts.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Haase</i>	<i>King</i>	<i>Coyle</i>	<i>B. Senior</i>
	1♥	2♥	3♠*
4♥*	5♥	Pass	6♥
Double	All Pass		

Once Phil King decided to open One Heart (the VuGraph audience were amazed that such a good player could miscount his points) and Willie Coyle decided to use Michaels, the auction had an air of inevitability about it. A splinter by South and a cue bid by West followed, and the auction ended with Brian Senior bidding Six Hearts, not surprisingly doubled by Gerald Haase. Despite the bad diamond break the slam could not be beaten. The Gold Cup team gained 15 IMPs and were on their way to a big win.

In the fourth match the Australians had a gadget or two to try out against France:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Iontzeff</i>	<i>Casselton</i>	<i>Beauvillain</i>	<i>A. Silver</i>
	3♦*	Pass	5♥*
Double	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Three Diamonds showed a good diamond pre-empt or any pre-empt in hearts. Five Hearts was pass or correct. Six Spades went the usual two off. The gadget at the other table was even more esoteric.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Antoff</i>	<i>Rigaud</i>	<i>A. Simpson</i>	<i>Jeanneteau</i>
	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	3♦
4♠	All Pass		

The French have quite strict rules about what qualifies as a weak two bid and Laurent Rigaud in the North seat felt that the quality of the heart suit was not quite good enough. Al Simpson's Two Heart opening, part of the Australian TANC system, showed a five card major and a five card minor, with 3-11 points. Theo Antoff, author of TANC, enquired with 2NT. East's Three Clubs showed the black suits and the Australians got to game with the French hearts never mentioned. Four Spades made exactly and the Australians gained 11 IMPs, although the French came back to win the match by 31 VPs to 29.

The Young Chelsea had a chance to recover from Zia's shenanigans on the very next board.

NS Game	♠	J			
Dealer E	♥	AQ932			
	♦	KQ97			
	♣	J75			
♠	7532		♠	AK	
♥	105		♥	KJ76	
♦	J103		♦	A42	
♣	A932		♣	K1064	
		♠	Q109864		
		♥	84		
		♦	865		
		♣	Q8		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Sheehan</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>
		1♣	Pass
2♣	2♥	3NT	All Pass

Zia led the ten of spades against Jon Green's contract of 3NT. The heart suit is frozen and Zia did well not to help declarer by leading the eight of hearts. Declarer won the first trick in hand and played the king of clubs and the ten of clubs to the ace (Deep Finesse says it would have been better to duck this trick when Zia played the queen). When the ten of hearts was led from dummy Robert Sheehan rose with the ace, cashed his jack of clubs and exited with a heart to declarer's jack. Green crossed to dummy's nine of clubs and led the jack of diamonds in this position, still needing four tricks:

	♠	-		
	♥	Q93		
	♦	KQ9		
	♣	-		
♠	753		♠	A
♥	-		♥	K7
♦	J103		♦	A42
♣	-		♣	-
		♠	Q98	
		♥	-	
		♦	865	
		♣	-	

Sheehan covered the diamond and, when this was ducked by declarer, played the nine of hearts. Green won and cashed his other spade winner. When Sheehan threw the nine of diamonds rather than come down to a singleton heart, Green read the position correctly and dropped the king of diamonds. In the other room Colin Simpson and David Price bid and made 2NT. No-one else made game on the East-West hands. The All Stars went on to lose this match by 15 VPs to 45, the first upset of the weekend. Jon Green was awarded the prize for the Best Played Hand.

There was an instructive point for aspiring declarers (especially those who play too quickly at trick one) in yet another board from the first round.

Love All           ♠ 1052  
 Dealer N         ♥ -  
                    ♦ K1053  
                    ♣ AKQ1062

♠ KQ63	♠ J987
♥ 65	♥ A743
♦ AJ2	♦ Q874
♣ 9754	♣ J

♠ A4  
 ♥ KQJ10982  
 ♦ 96  
 ♣ 83

All eight Norths opened One Club and all eight Souths got to Four Hearts, some with just one bid. At seven tables West led a top spade and six declarers ducked. Most Wests played a second spade. Jeremy Dhondy for the Young Chelsea cashed the ace of diamonds (in case declarer could throw all his diamonds away on dummy's clubs) and then played a second spade. Without a club switch the declarers were home. They won the spade continuation, drove out the ace of trumps and had a safe spade ruff back to hand to draw the rest of the trumps. They made ten or eleven tricks depending on what North switched to when in with the ace of hearts. If it wasn't a diamond, declarer made an overtrick. Dhondy had done well to remove his partner's losing option.

The importance of ducking the first spade was shown by events at the seventh table, where the declarer won the first trick and led top hearts. Phil King for the Gold Cup team won the third round and switched to his singleton jack of clubs. Declarer was stuck in dummy and played a spade. Brian Senior in the West seat won the trick and had no difficulty in giving King his club ruff.

Anthony Silver for Australia versus France was the only South not to lead a spade. His choice of the seven of clubs gave Olivier Beauvillain no chance of making his contract. Beauvillain had to win in dummy and, whether he played a diamond away from the king or a spade to his ace, he was setting up a fourth loser.

NS Game           ♠ AKQ853  
 Dealer N         ♥ AJ7  
                    ♦ Q3  
                    ♣ 108

♠ 10762	♠ 9
♥ 2	♥ Q983
♦ 10652	♦ J987
♣ QJ52	♣ A643

♠ J4  
 ♥ K10654  
 ♦ AK4  
 ♣ K97

The bidding at most tables started One Spade - Two Hearts and ended in Five or Six Hearts. With a certain trump loser, eleven tricks was the limit on the hand. Robert Sheehan and Colin Simpson bid to the best spot.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Antoff</i>	<i>Sheehan</i>	<i>A. Simpson</i>	<i>C. Simpson</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦*
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Sheehan's decision to rebid Three Spades, rather than raise hearts immediately, was the key to the hand. When he belatedly supported hearts, Simpson was able to choose to play in no-trumps. On a club lead he had no problems in the play. They were the only pair to bid and make a slam and won the prize for the Best Bid Hand.

The prize for the Best Defended Hand was won during the next round.

EW Game	♠	KQJ3		
Dealer N	♥	K8632		
	♦	J9		
	♣	64		
	♠	107	♠	654
	♥	Q4	♥	J9
	♦	AQ832	♦	105
	♣	A1085	♣	KQJ932
		♠	A982	
		♥	A1075	
		♦	K764	
		♣	7	

In two matches the result was determined by the bidding system. If the North-South pair were playing four-card majors South opened One Heart, North raised to game and the contract was made. If North-South were playing five-card majors then South was obliged to open One Diamond and so it was North who ended up declaring Four Hearts. The king of clubs lead, a diamond switch and a diamond ruff twice led to a one trick defeat.

This was the bidding in the match between the All Stars and the Gold Cup Winners.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Price</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>	<i>Burn</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
	Pass	3♣	Double
3♦	4♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

David Price sowed the seed for the successful defence by bidding Three Diamonds, rather than a simple Four Clubs, over South's take-out double. He expected North to be the declarer and wanted to suggest a diamond lead to partner. North bid Four Clubs, showing a willingness to play in either major, and effectively foiling Price's plan by transferring the declarership to South. David Bakhshi bid Four Hearts. Price passed and put plan B into operation. If East couldn't lead a diamond at trick one, maybe he could lead one at trick two. Price underled his ace of clubs to David Burn's jack, won the diamond return with queen, cashed the ace and played a third round to promote a trump trick for the defence. Burn apologised for taking so long to switch to a diamond at trick two. "I knew you wanted a diamond switch, partner," he said. "But it was a while before I realised that my jack had won the first trick!"

In the fourth match North America were playing Australia, and the Canadian pair reached a different game contract:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Antoff</i>	<i>J. Silver</i>	<i>A. Simpson</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♦	3♠*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Joe Silver's Three Spade bid was a fit-jump so the hand was being played the wrong way up and a diamond was led through the king. However the excellent spade intermediates enabled Silver to ruff the third diamond high and he actually ended up with an overtrick. The Australian convention in the other room was not quite so successful. Ian Casselton opened the North hand Two Spades, showing 8-11 points, four spades and five-plus clubs or hearts. Anthony Silver (no relation) passed and the game was missed.

At the end of Saturday, after four rounds, the leading positions were as follows:

Gold Cup Winners	155
North America	144
Young Chelsea Champions	138
France	136
All Stars	108

France had won all four of its matches, but by small margins. The All Stars had had a couple of spectacular bidding misunderstandings by irregular partnerships, but there was still plenty of time to recover.

As luck would have it, North America played the Gold Cup Winners in a top of the table clash in the first match on Sunday.

Love All	♠	A3		
Dealer W	♥	1076		
	♦	742		
	♣	98743		
	♠	7	♠	K96
	♥	J852	♥	AKQ3
	♦	K63	♦	A95
	♣	KQ1052	♣	AJ6
	♠	QJ108542		
	♥	94		
	♦	QJ108		
	♣	-		

The most common bidding sequence started with two passes and 2NT by East. South overcalled Three Spades, West doubled and East's bid of 3NT or Four Hearts ended the auction. Two Souths, Anthony Silver for Australia and Phil King for the Gold Cup team, decided that Three Spades was sending a boy to do a man's job and bid Four Spades. Both gained on the board, Silver by pushing the Ladies into the lower scoring Five Clubs contract, and King by conceding only 300. However North America beat the Gold Cup Winners by 40 VPs to 20 and moved to the top of the table.

Looking at the East-West hands you would prefer to be in the higher scoring Six Hearts (which will make with reasonable breaks wherever the ace of spades is) to Six Clubs (which can cope with a five-nil trump break, but needs the ace of spades on-side). Not if you look at the North-South hands. If West is declarer in Six Hearts, South can get a club ruff. If East is declarer, South can lead the two of spades and then get a ruff. This was the defence that Sandra Penfold and Nevena Senior found against the Australians, but the contract was only Four Hearts.

Only Bernard Teltscher and Tony Priday managed to bid the slam.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Priday</i>	<i>Hillman</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>	<i>Bennett</i>
Pass	Pass	2NT	3♠
4♣	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

The lead of the ace of spades must have been a pleasant sight for Priday, and it meant that he could claim the contract at trick two.

The North American reign at the top of the table was short-lived. In match 6 they lost to the Young Chelsea Champions by 6 VPs to 54, the biggest win of the weekend. With one round to go the Gold Cup Winners were back in front, 1 VP ahead of the Young Chelsea. The All Stars had moved up to third and were due to play fourth-placed North America. Either team could still win the overall event, but would need a big margin of victory to do it.

The first board showed the way the three critical matches would go. Joe Silver wasn't going to hang around waiting for good results to fall into his lap.

EW Game	♠	32		
Dealer N	♥	J10865		
	♦	832		
	♣	953		
	♠	KQJ6	♠	985
	♥	KQ	♥	A973
	♦	AK	♦	QJ10974
	♣	KQJ72	♣	-
	♠	A1074		
	♥	42		
	♦	65		
	♣	A10864		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Burn</i>	<i>J. Silver</i>	<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Carruthers</i>
	1♥!	Pass	1NT*1
Double	2♣!	2♥*	2♠*2
Double	Pass	4♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

\*1 Forcing \*2 Agreeing clubs

Burn knew that someone was being a bit frisky by the time the bidding came round to him, and when Zia bid Two Hearts it was possible that both opponents were at it. The All Stars auction got back on the rails until the 6NT bid, later described by its perpetrator as the bid of a man 'bewildered by the whole affair'. David Bird had his work cut out explaining the bidding sequence on VuGraph, but the audience loved it. Meanwhile, at the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Wildavsky</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Doub</i>	<i>C. Simpson</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Double	Pass	2♠*	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

All that excitement for a flat board! And that was how the match went as well; two of the pre-tournament favourites slugging it out for a 30-30 draw, a result that didn't help either of them.

Jeremy Dhondy and Alan Kay for the Young Chelsea Champions had an uncontested Strong Club auction to Six Diamonds but lost the board to the French:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>lontzeff</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Beauvillain</i>	<i>Hillman</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*1	Pass
2NT	Pass	6♦	Double
All Pass			

\*1 Fewer than 8 points

Keith Bennett led the jack of hearts. Georges lontzeff won in hand and drew two rounds of trumps. He crossed to dummy with a club ruff, drew the last trump and played a spade. When Richard Hillman ducked, lontzeff ruffed another club back to dummy and played a second spade. If Hillman ducked again this would be the position:

	♠ -	
	♥ 10865	
	♦ -	
	♣ 9	
♠ J6		♠ 8
♥ K		♥ A97
♦ -		♦ Q
♣ KQ		♣ -
	♠ A10	
	♥ 2	
	♦ -	
	♣ A108	

Declarer would exit with a top club, throwing the losing spade from dummy. The Young Chelsea Champions lost the match but got just enough VPs to stay in second place.

Anthony Silver opened the South hand Two Spades for the Australians against the Gold Cup team, showing 8-11 points, four spades and five-plus clubs or hearts. Phil King bid an immediate 3NT and played there. Australia also opened Two Spades at the other table.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<i>Antoff</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>	<i>A. Simpson</i>	<i>McIntosh</i>
	Pass	2♠*1	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

\*1 9-12 points. Any semi-solid seven card suit with A or K outside, or a solid seven card major.

Five Clubs drifted two off and the Gold Cup team was on its way to a comfortable win and a first Lederer victory for each of them.

The final leader board was as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gold Cup Winners (Phil King, Brian Senior, Andrew McIntosh, David Bakhshi)	258
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Young Chelsea Champions (Richard Hillman, Keith Bennett, Jeremy Dhondy, Alan Kay, Jon Green)	234
3 <sup>rd</sup>	All Stars (Zia Mahmood, Robert Sheehan, Colin Simpson, David Price, David Burn)	232
4 <sup>th</sup>	North America (John Carruthers, Joe Silver, Doug Doub, Adam Wildavsky)	220

An innovation at the Lederer this year was a "Play with the Stars" satellite event held at Wimbledon Bridge Club. The participants played 24 boards at the same time as they were being played in the main event. The results from the Lederer were transmitted to Wimbledon where the North-South pairs scored up as "team mates" with England Ladies Nicola Smith & Heather Dhondy, whilst the East-West pairs scored up with Zia Mahmood and Rob Sheehan from the All Stars. The winners of this event, who were awarded prizes on Sunday along with the winners of the main event, were Leslie Kennedy & Maia Knoll (N-S) and Elisabeth Phillips & Ian Fogg (E-W).

Tribute for a very successful tournament should be paid to sponsor Bernard Teltscher, the LMBA organisers, Warwick Pitch, and all the volunteer helpers from the Young Chelsea.