



The winning team with the Lederer Trophy: from left, Sabine Auken, Daniela von Arnim, Thomas Bessis and Zia Mahmood

Seven up for Zia

ZIA Mahmood has led his All Stars teams to a Lederer Memorial Trophy record. Victory in the latest Lederer – the 60th – took Zia's haul of victories to seven, ahead of all other competitors.

The great man was teamed up this time with Thomas Bessis, at 22 the youngest ever winner, and with Germany's Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim, the first women's pair in 36 years to get their names on the trophy.

The event was again held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, with eight invited teams playing 12-board matches against each other.

Ireland, winners for the last two years, were defending their title against mainly English teams, the notable exception being the All Stars. The Gold Cup winners from 2004 and 2005 were in action (the former under the name The A Team), as well as this year's Schapiro Spring Foursomes winners.

Most teams won two and lost two of their matches on Saturday, resulting in a closely packed field. The All Stars had the only big win of the day, but were pegged back when they lost the last match to England.

Overnight the All Stars were leading with 140, ahead of England on 134, The A Team on 131.5 and Ireland on 127.

The All Stars and England both won their first two matches on Sunday, while The A Team and Ireland lost both theirs. The All Stars then narrowly won against Ireland, but England stumbled against the surprise team of the tournament, the Young Chelsea Champions.

Because this Lederer marked the diamond jubilee of the event all winners from the 40s and 50s were invited along to what tournament manager Simon Cocheme described as 'a sort of parade of champions'. Louis Tarlo was too ill to attend, but Michael Wolach and Dorothy Shanahan, both in their nineties, were there.

Result: 1 All Stars 258, 2 England (Tom Townsend, David Gold, David Price and Colin Simpson) 233, 3 Young Chelsea (Andy Bowles, Graham Osborne, John Howard and Martin Garvey) 221, 4 The A Team (Alexander Allfrey, Andrew Robson, Tony Forrester and David

Bakhshi) 220.5, 5 Schapiro Spring Foursomes (Neil Rosen, Glyn Liggins, Peter Crouch and Martin Jones) 215, 6 President's Team (Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, John Matheson, Victor Silverstone and Chris Dixon) 191, 7 Ireland (Tommy Garvey, John Carroll, Hugh McGann and Tom Hanlon) 181, 8 Gold Cup (Janet de Botton, David Burn, Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason Hackett and Justin Hackett) 160.

Winners of the Teltscher cups in the Play with the Stars event, contested in clubs playing the same first 24 boards as in the Lederer, were Aline Sandberg and Juliet Scott (Hurlingham Bridge Club), scoring with Mahmood and Bessis, and Wendy Alper and Murray Steinberg (Acol Bridge Club), scoring with Auken and von Arnim.

The London Metropolitan Bridge Association is also celebrating its diamond jubilee. It held a simultaneous pairs event in September and during the Lederer weekend the winners were presented with their prizes. They were Sir Eddie Kulukundis and Patricia Alcock (North-South) from the Andrew Robson Bridge Club and Ben Green and Glyn Preece (East-West) from Moseley Bridge Club.

• *The pick of some of the hands from the Lederer will be featured next time.*

Lining up for Camrose and Lady Milne action

ENGLAND go into action in the Camrose Trophy 2007 keen to improve on recent efforts in this home nations event. They finished fourth of five in this year's contest, which was also the position they achieved in 2005.

The first of two weekends take place at the Oxford Belfry Hotel in Thame, from January 5-7 and the second one is at the Thistle Aberdeen Airport Hotel from March 2-4.

The England line-up had not been announced at the time of going to press, but the de Botton team of Nick Sandqvist, Artur Malinowski, Jason and Justin Hackett, with Janet de Botton as non-playing captain, finished well clear of seven rival teams in the recently completed open trials and is guaranteed to represent England in at least one of the Camrose matches. Additional selections will be made from the other trialists.

John Armstrong, John Holland, Tony Waterlow and Paul Hackett were second in the trials, with Neil Rosen, David Bakhshi, Martin Jones and David Price third, Michael Byrne, Andrew Woodcock, Ben Green and Duncan Happer fourth, Tom Townsend, David Gold, Jack Mizel and Andrew McIntosh fifth, Jeremy Dhondy, Keith Bennett, Heather Dhondy and Rob Cliffe sixth, Ian Monahan, Victor Silverstone, Dick Shek and Gus Calderwood seventh and Geoff Wolfarth, Nevena Senior, Brian Senior and Espen Erichson eighth.

Corresponding event for women is the Lady Milne, to be played April 13-15 in Wales. Bryony Youngs and Susan Stockdale secured their place for England by finishing top in the trials and the selection committee will decide on the other places in the team. Catherine Jagger and Sarah Teshome were second in the trials and Nicola Smith and Heather Dhondy third, followed by Catherine Seale and Nevena Senior, Michelle Brunner and Rhona Goldenfield, Nicole Cooke and Christine Duckworth, Helen Erichson and Alice Kaye, Kath Nelson and Catherine Draper, Laura Macdougall and Heather Bakhshi, Anne Rosen and Sandra Penfold.

Christmas brings Year End bridge!

ONCE again the EBU has two major Year End congresses: in London and in Blackpool. Both are extremely popular and enjoyable events.

The London one takes place over four days at the Royal National Hotel (just off Russell Square), starting on Wednesday December 27. Swiss pairs and Swiss teams are highlights of a varied programme.

Special package deals are available at either the Royal National (twin accommodation only) or the nearby Imperial Hotel. For details and reservations call 020 7278 7871.

Blackpool Year End runs for three days at the Hilton Hotel on North Promenade, starting on Thursday December 28. Here, too, the programme features Swiss pairs and Swiss teams.

There is a dinner, bed and breakfast package available at the Hilton (phone 01253 623434) at £58 per person per night.

Entry forms are available on the EBU website www.ebu.co.uk where there are more details of both congresses. Alternatively enter by telephoning the EBU competitions department on 01296 317203/5.