

CHELSEA BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE YOUNG CHELSEA BRIDGE CLUB

MAY 1986

The Lederer Trophy, which was sponsored by the Club for the first time, was the first event played in the new downstairs room.
BARRY RIGAL writes:

Over the weekend of 9th and 10th November 1985 the Lederer Trophy was contested once again at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club. Our thanks are due to them not only for the sponsorship but also for the remarkable refurbishment of the Club which has transformed the playing area into what is arguably the best venue for playing bridge in the country. Certainly the playing rooms accommodated 100 players and spectators while absorbing cigarette smoke and keeping the temperature at a constant 70 degrees in great comfort.

As a measure of the strength of the event, the holders were relegated to fifth place and the event turned into a virtually two horse race with the Professionals (Norman Selway, Roman Smolski, Richard Sampson and David Edwin) just edging out the Irish (Brian Senior, Pat Walshe, Adam Mesbur and Nick Fitzgibbon) with half a match to spare.

This year as ever there was much to praise as well as a great deal to laugh at. Richard Butland and John Reardon won the prize for the best defended hand with this effort.

	Q7643		
	1082		
	1087		
	A9		
82		KJ105	The auction went
J543		K	
A43		Q9652	1H 1S
KJ72		1064	2C 2H
	A9		
	AQ976		
	KJ		
	Q853		

Butland got the defence off to a winning start with a small heart lead to the king and ace. Declarer correctly decided that the best line for the contract was to lead diamonds from hand to establish a spade discard. Had he led the jack there would have been no story, but he played the king which went to the ace, and Butland again followed the only chance of beating the contract by shifting to the eight of spades. Declarer naturally inserted the queen to the king and ace, and then pressed on with the jack of diamonds which went to the queen.

Reardon was forced to cash a spade and then again pursued the only successful line of defence by exiting with the five of spades ruffed by declarer with the six. At this stage had Butland over-ruffed with the jack, the fifth spade could have been established for a club discard. He therefore discarded a diamond, and declarer, realising he could make the contract if hearts were 3-2, led 9H from hand. Butland rose with the jack and exited with a small heart. Although declarer could win this in either hand, there was now no way he could avoid going one off.

This excellent defence having won Butland and Reardon the prize for the best defended hand, there was a sizeable majority vote that would have awarded the same pair the prize for Chutzpah on the following exhibit.

	KJ		Martin Hoffman, no doubt smarting from having
	A97532		watched Mrs Markus play six of the last seven
	8542		hands, finally became declarer in five
	5		diamonds doubled, and, after losing the first
A9743		Q1086	trick to the ace of clubs and receiving a
64		QJ10	diamond switch, he cashed the ace and king and
Q109		6	discovered he had an automatic loser. He then
K72		AQ983	played the king, ace and a third heart ruffing
	52		in hand. This was over-ruffed by John Reardon
	K8		who of course realised that cashing the ace of
	AKJ73		spades would have defeated the contract by one
	J1064		trick. He was however playing point-a-board and
			had realised from his partner's first discard

of the eight of spades that he held the queen. He therefore immediately underled the ace and one can hardly blame Hoffman for failing to appreciate the full beauty of the position. No-one, he thought, could possibly allow a contract to make when they held a cashing ace in hand. He therefore inserted the jack and went two off for minus 300 and a full, frank and free exchange of views from his partner!

Richard Sampson won the prize for the best played hand when, having eschewed the opportunity to collect 700 from two spades doubled, he was forced into the indignity of attempting to make four hearts from the West hand.

	AQJ73		He won the JD lead, played two top hearts from
	65		hand unblocking the 10 and 9, and then cashed two
	J109		clubs and two further diamonds discarding a spade
	J108		from hand. He then ran the four of hearts
K942		865	reasoning that if North won he would be end-played
AKQ8		1094	to open up spades.
K5		AQ76	
AKQ		732	Now cashing the QH and QC imposes a one suit
	10		squeeze on North. He must come down to only three
	J732		spades, and if he keeps the ace, queen and jack,
	8432		he will be end-played with a small spade. Should
	9654		he discard the jack, Sampson can play the king of
			spades and collect the final trick with a small
			spade.

There was only one serious contender for the most humorous comment of the weekend. Rixi Markus and Martin Hoffman played in partnership throughout and on one hand Rixi tentatively suggested a technical improvement to a line of play followed by Martin. A full, free and frank exchange of views followed at a decibel range not unadjacent to that of a pneumatic drill, to the interest of the spectators. One of them, Mrs Anna Hayes, who had not previously visited the Young Chelsea nor come into previous contact with either of the participants, leaned across to the score monitor and asked: "Are they married?"

Finally, a tribute must be paid both to David Parry for his energetic and tireless organisation of the event, and to Richard Fleet and Steve Barnfield who directed and refereed with their customary insouciance.

ON A HIGH - WATCH OUT ! ON A LOW - CHEER UP !

advises CHARLES CARTER

Bridge, like life, is a series of sine waves. For example, on a good day you take three tops in a row off a pair of internationals, you win the jackpot on the fruit machine, and afterwards she says "of course darling, but let me fix you a steak first". On a bad day a pair of beginners take three tops in a row off you, somebody else wins the jackpot just after you have lost a fiver, and afterwards she has a headache.

Here are a couple of hands to show you what I mean.

Tuesday night at YC. We've played well and have received our fair share of gifts. Good company, interesting hands, a few drinks inside us, God's in his heaven, all's right with the world and we bid to the obvious slam on:-

A	K5	Club jack lead. Only the heart ace to lose, wish I'd
KC1098	J542	risked 6NT but not to worry. I win and lead a trump.
AKQJ4	5	South wins, returns a club and North ruffs!
75	AKQ64	
	1C	Unlucky, but I should have foreseen it. Why a club lead?
2H	3H	Simply win in dummy, diamond to the ace, spade ace,
4NT	5D	diamond ruff, spade king throwing a club, and NCW lead
6H		a trump. If South wins and returns a club, ruff in hand
		secure in the knowledge that North cannot over-ruff.

On the other side of the coin:-

Partner this time is an American who likes five card majors and strong no trump. We've had no gifts at all and a series of misunderstandings. He has bid dumbly, played dumbly, and defended terribly. And he has criticised me a lot (mostly unfairly). I'm tired, cross, and want to go home.

AQ109	J32	I remembered we were playing strong no trump but forgot about five card majors. He bid two diamonds because he liked the suit quality! He then thought for ages before bidding 3S so I passed.
K10	J52	
A864	KQJ10	
872	1053	

1S	2D	North led a small club and South won the first three tricks with KQJ of clubs, all following. South then led a small heart after a lot of thought. Thinking he had led away from the ace, I played the king - and went down as expected for another bottom.
3D	3S	

Rubbish play. I should have thought: "Everybody else will be bidding INT Pass Pass Pass almost certainly making. So to get any match points at all I must make this silly contract".

A lot has to be right. For a start South must have the spade king. Put that card firmly in his hand. He's shown up with six points already, the spade king makes nine. Therefore he CANNOT have the heart ace as well because he passed initially. So I should definitely have played the heart ten at trick four. I could have made the contract, the full deal being:-

	875	
	A762	
	97	
	A964	
AQ109	J32	
K10	J52	
A864	KQJ10	
872	1053	
	K64	
	Q984	
	532	
	KQJ	

On a high	-	watch out	:
On a low	-	cheer up	:
But in either case	-	think	:

THE MARATHON

The 1985 Marathon saw the entry increase from 20 tables to 28 tables and prize money went up from £1100 to £2000. The event was run in three sections for the first time - two eleven table Mitchells and a six table Howell. The whole thing ran like a dream and was very obviously enjoyed by all those who participated. One player remarked after the finish that it was the best bridge event in which he had ever played, a sentiment which could have been echoed by many others.

Not the least successful feature was the food bar downstairs which was the brainchild of Committee chairman Christine Duckworth. It was Christine who master-minded the feeding of 120 people for 24 hours. She arranged for a microwave oven and a tea-urn to be on site, and supervised the cooking of all the food most of which was done before the big day.

The event itself looked like developing into a repeat of last year as Bob Brinig and Norman Selway duly installed themselves at the head of the leader board after the opening session. They gradually increased their lead and it began to look very much like a one-horse race. But after the halfway stage something happened. For one reason or another errors crept into their game, they began to lose their momentum, and there was a feeling that they could be caught.

In a finish which could not have been bettered if it had been stage-managed, they met their closest challengers (Gus Calderwood and Dick Shek) on the penultimate round and this clash proved decisive. The challengers got much the better of a part-score hand following superb judgement in the auction by Gus, Bob and Norman missed a grand slam, and then Gus and Dick bid an excellent six diamonds which not many pairs reached. So the challengers came away with most of the match points and at the finish they just pipped the holders by 19 points.

The leading prize-winners were:

1.	Gus Calderwood & Dick Shek	5156	£ 1000
2.	Bob Brinig & Norman Selway	5137	250
3.	Geoff Hiller & David Muller	4970	100
4.	Brian Callaghan & Richard Fleet	4957	80
5.	Barry Rigal, Henry & Kitty Bethe	4951	80
6.	Andy Rooke & Neil Rosen	4947	50
7.	Steve Eginton & John Holland	4927	50
8.	Unal Durmus & Richard Sampson	4894	50
9.	Peter Crouch & John Pottage	4888	50
10.	Julian Bacon & Eric Willis	4880	50

LONDON FOURSOMES

Since its inception 16 years ago the London Foursomes has had mixed fortunes and many homes. It started off grandly at Berners Hotel with 32 teams but last year reached its nadir with just seven teams. This year it was held at the Club for the first time and the entry shot up to 19 teams.

All three competitions were won by Club teams. The principal event, the Berners Bowl, was won by Norman Selway partnering Barry Rigal in harness with Ian Gardiner and Peter Czerniewski. The secondary event, the Tarlo Trophy, went to Margaret McCarthy playing with Mike Graham and team-mates Geoff Hiller and David Muller. (David Burn came in as substitute for some of the time and rumour has it that he raked in most of the winning IMPs).

Finally, the Charters Cup (known affectionately in certain quarters as the RP Bowl) was brought home again by Dick Garland, Chris Self, Paul Martin and Peter Richards. Well done lads!

PORTLAND PAIRS

Club pairs finished 2nd, 3rd and 10th in the Portland (Great Britain Mixed Pairs Championship). They were respectively Liz Walkington and Keith Loveys, Christine Duckworth and Brian Callaghan, and Fiona Brickwood and Bob Brinig.

NATIONAL WOMENS TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

Margaret McCarthy (not known for her love of women's bridge) was talked into substituting for Christine Duckworth (who was ill). Partnering Lyn Hayes (whom she had not previously met) and with team-mates Pam Cohen and Jane Sutcliffe (both former Club members) she went right through the field to win this much prized championship.

GOLD CUP

Andrew MacAlister (Fiske Warren, Ian Gardiner, Frank To, Rob Cliffe, Mike Vail) sensationally knocked out the favourites and last year's winners (Chris Dixon and Victor Silverstone, Rob Sheehan and Barry Myers, Irving Rose and Roman Smolski) in round three. The competition has now reached round six where Andrew has drawn Sowter and Lodge, Forrester and Brock, Armstrong and Kirby. Not much comfort, but if they can maintain their previous form the Sowter team will have to do the worrying.

CLUB COMMITTEE

The newest recruit to the Committee is John Probst, who has been a Club member almost from the beginning and has already served a stint on the London Committee. He replaces Tony Lee who has served the Committee well for many years as Minutes Secretary. Tony's business commitments no longer afford him the time to visit the Club as much as he used to, and he felt it was time to make way for someone else.

The remaining Committee members are Christine Duckworth (chairman), Janet Andrew, Anne Brewster, Chris Duckworth, Richard Fleet, Michael Lighthill, David Muller, John Prior, Brian Ransley, Su Tick and Andrew Whittome.

EARLY SECTION

Because of increased attendances since refurbishment we will be experimenting with an early section starting at 7 p.m. on all the Mondays in June. It should be stressed that this is purely experimental. If it works, it will become permanent on Mondays and could well be extended to Wednesdays. If it fails, it will be quickly abandoned.

PSYCHING

We are pleased to report that the problems encountered until recently caused by the indiscriminate use of the psychic bid show signs of abating. We have no doubt that this is due primarily to the very firm stand taken by the Committee which made it abundantly clear to all concerned that it was no longer prepared to tolerate either frequent psyching by the same player or "frivolous" psyching. There is now an altogether healthier atmosphere, but it should be stated again that it is imperative that ALL psychic bids continue to be reported so that we can continue to be aware of the level of psyching. Members are reminded that a psyche may be reported not only by the opponents but by any of the four players at the table.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday	June	14th	Pivot Teams
Saturday	July	19th	Swiss Teams
Sat/Sun	September	6th & 7th	Marathon
Sunday	September	21st	Zodiac Pairs
Sunday	October	5th	Mixed Teams
Sat/Sun	October	25th & 26th	Lederer Trophy
Saturday	December	13th	Santa Claus Pairs

JOHN PROBST EXPLAINS WHY HE DIDN'T WIN THE GOLD CUP

Sometime last year I started asking people who might be interested in forming a Gold Cup team. The main criterion was total lunacy so that was how Ian Shilling and Damian Hassan got drafted in. Peter Taylor couldn't think of a good enough excuse to get out of it, and then Beany showed interest. We suggested he emigrated but he insisted and imported Viv (Rajeesh Vivekananthan) at great expense from the Acol. We did a bit of training and won our first and second round matches. Then we drew Joe Amsbury's team (Joe and Lawrence, Brian Callaghan and Phil Bailey, Al Woo and Ian Fogg). Surprisingly we beat them, although on the day we were the better team.

The draw for the fourth round gave us Doug Smerdon (playing with Andrew Thompson), Clark and Burton, and Sadler and Waterlow. They were seeded. And so off we went to Johnny Sadler's offices one Sunday to do battle.

I decided to bench Peter and myself and we were three down after eight. Ian and Damian then sat out and we were 28 down after 16. Beany and Viv then sat out and we got 13 back. Damian and Ian were playing well and played the rest. On the 4th set we got 16 back to go one up overall. We then gained seven to go eight up into the last set. This was the crucial hand.

	K5			
	AJ1073			
	Q	Hassan		Shilling
	A10954			
6		J843	1C	2S
K984		Q62	3H	3S
10863		J942	4C	4D
KJ76		32	4H	4S
	AQ10972		5S	6S
	5			
	AK75			
	Q8			

In our room Smerdon and Thompson played in 3NT for plus 660. Ian and Damian reached the obvious six spades. The lead of 9H looking too much like a singleton caused Ian to take an inferior line for one off when trumps broke 4-1. We lost by 8. Had we not bid the slam and gained a flat board, we would have won by 5. We'll do better next year.

----- AND WHY WE DIDN'T WIN THE REGIONAL MASTERS

Julian Bacon and I went off to Birmingham to see if we could repeat our 1984 success. The format was eight sessions of 12 boards and we got onto the leader board by the 3rd session. By the 6th session we had moved into the lead, and at the end of the 7th were a top clear of second. Then this hand appeared.

Q10743	K9	S	W	N	E
A4	Q8532				
A75	J32			1S	-
Q76	8542	1NT	-	-	Dble

A heart is led and on enquiry you are told the double shows a flattish 14 count. So you shrug inwardly and inspect dummy. RHO wins the king and returns a heart to dummy. You play a spade to the king which holds and run the nine of spades. If RHO has AJ8x you need to duck in dummy so he has no ten-ace over you. If they are 3-3, you should play the ten. You duck. The nine wins. (So far two hearts, two spades, one diamond).

Perhaps clubs are 3-3 so you lead a club and LHO wins the king and leads a diamond to his partner's queen. RHO then tanks for a week and plays the diamond king back. You win in dummy. You play the spade queen and RHO wins with the jack falling. He exits with a heart. You win in hand with the queen discarding a spade since one more spade will be enough.

The position now is:

10 Spades were 3-3. Hearts and diamonds are 4-3 or 3-4. RHO has shown
- up with the ace of spades, the king of hearts, and the king and
- queen of diamonds. He probably has the jack of clubs but not AK
Qx as with AKJ LHO would lead them and with ace or king of clubs RHO
 has too much.

- You cash the jack of diamonds and all follow. A club endplays LHO.
x I don't know why but I played a heart. One off for minus 100.
J Plus 180 would have been worth another 28 match points. We were
x second by 12.

YOUNG CHELSEA IN AUSTRALIA

Andrew MacAlister, David Muller, Unal Durmus and Gillian Salt were in Surfers Paradise, Queensland, in February and March where they played in a five session pairs (Andrew and Unal won the third-ranking final) and a three day Swiss Teams (they came 7th out of 100).

An interesting feature of bridge down under is that all bids are written down which prevents bids at one table being overheard at another. This was particularly useful in the events which were barometer-scored. (For the uninitiated this means the same boards were played throughout the room at the same time).

David had gone out via Singapore and met up with the others at the Sydney home of Unal's father. Andrew had planned his trip for a long time and went to stay with former Club members Mike and Mia Macrossan. Mike is now lecturing in Brisbane.

SANTA CLAUS PAIRS

This novelty event was based on an idea by David Burn from his Cambridge days. For those familiar with Cambridge undergraduate bridge it would not be immediately apparent that a hit there would automatically go down well here with most of the participants drawn from the "Acol" nights. But a hit it was as all who were there would agree from Probsty in his Santa outfit downwards. Hats off to a hard-working sub-committee (Su Tick, Michael Lighthill, Richard Fleet) for a brilliant idea well executed.

BRAIN TEASER

A member recently visited a club where the bidding was somewhat eccentric. These were the results on one of the boards:

	West	North	East	Result
Table 1	7H			Contract Made
Table 2	7H	7S		Contract Made
Table 3	7H	7S	7NT	Contract Made
Table 4	7H	7NT		Contract Made

No hand contained a red suit longer than 7 cards. North had two more high card points than East. What were the four hands? (Answer overleaf).

AN OUNCE OF INFERENCE IS WORTH A POUND OF PERCENTAGE ANY DAY

(The author of this article, Charles Carter, lives in Scotland. In the two years he was based in London he was at the Club two or three times a week, mainly on Acol nights).

This title is a quote from one of H.W. Kelsey's excellent books. Agreed, but percentages are important as well. Here is a little Tuesday night tale to prove it.

After simple bidding 1S - 2S - 4S Peter Donovan's partner led his singleton trump. I was West. What a nice lead!

AKJ92	7653	Without much thought I quickly made ten tricks for an average plus score. Peter delivered one of his "electro disintegrators" to partner, looked at all four hands and opined: "If you had made the sensible lead of a small heart from K975, I bet Charles would have gone down".
J103	Q42	
4	AQ6	
AK102	J43	

Dash it, Donovan, I shall not stand idly by and let such an insult go unanswered! In fact I would have made an overtrick.

Say the play goes heart to ace, heart to king, heart to queen all following. The "a priori" odds of a 2-2 spade split (40.7%) will have altered slightly now that three cards have been played from each hand. Quick pause to work out 4c2 multiplied by 16c8 divided by 20c10. 42%. Insignificant. So I'll assume the 3-1 splits have the same "a priori" odds of just under 50%.

In the absence of further information, playing for the drop would be the best line here. You have the 42% chance of a 2-2 split plus one quarter of the 3-1 splits (singleton queen in either hand) plus one quarter of the remainder (both diamond and club finesses right). Quick calculation: 42 plus 12½ plus 11½ i.e. 66%. But here I DO have further information. What about the odd lead of a heart away from the king? Inference: North has the diamond king and club queen as well. Negative Inference: if he also holds the spade queen, he might have overcalled.

Here I would have played a spade to the ace. Both follow with small cards. Diamo finesse wins. Spade from dummy, ten from South. This is the critical point. South now has seven cards left and North eight cards. The spade queen is the only one outstanding in the enemy hands. However, I have placed the diamond king and club queen with North. The odds therefore favour a finesse by 7 to 6 for certain, and I think more - see negative inference above. It wins! Draw trumps, cross to dummy's spade 7, play off the diamond ace and DON'T finesse clubs. The queen drops (North's distribution was 1-4-6-2). Eleven tricks for a joint top.

O.K. Peter?

Easy with the benefit of hindsight. But, you must agree, entirely logical.

ANSWER TO BRAIN TEASER

	AQJ1098765432	
-	-	
-	-	
-	A	K
AKQJ1098		-
AKQJ109		-
-		KQJ1098765432
	765432	
	8765432	
	-	

(Problem supplied by Charles Carter).