

4th TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP

Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy Jan. 29th - Feb. 8th 2024



PREBULLETIN Saturday, Jan. 13th

Editors: Mark Horton, Marek Wójcicki, Artur Wasiak

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Those, who have already registered, are asked to complete all data, and send convention cards. It should be sent to TD Tomasz Radko, e-mail: trad@interia.pl

We still remind that number of players at the team is limited to 12 and we do not play any Friday, Saturday nor Sunday, so most live games can be played during TSC.

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FORMER MEDALISTS

2021

1. TURKEY

Nafiz Zorlu, Mesut Karadeniz, Namik Kokten, Huseyin Avcioglu, Mehmet Copur, A.Orhan Ekinci, Mehmet Ali Ince

2. USA LEVINE

Bob Morris, Eddie Wold, Martk Lair, Mike Levine, Jeff Meckstroth, Mike Passell, Eric Rodwell

3. ITALY

Andrea Buratti, Amadeo Comella, Giuseppe Failla, Sergio Freddio, Virgilio Gagliardi, Franco Garbosi, Gianpaolo Guermani, Bernardo Mancini, Aldo Mina, Ruggero Pulga, Stefano Sabbatini, Paolo Uggeri

Website of the tournament:

https://r.pzbs.pl/2024/tsc/web/

2022

1. LITHUANIA

Vytautas Vainikonis, Wojtek Olański, Apolinary Kowalski, Jacek Romański, Jonas Drobulis, Marek Witek, Bogusław Gierulski, Jerzy Russyan

2. USA LUSKY

John Lusky, Alan Falk, Jeff Aker, Frank Merblum, Barry Rigal, Glenn Milgrim, Doug Doub, Drew Casen, Jim Krekorian

3. POLAND MARKOWICZ

Wiktor Markowicz, Krzysztof Moszczyński, Michał Kwiecień, Włodzimierz Starkowski, Piotr Bizoń, Marek Blat

2023

1. POLAND MARKOWICZ

Wiktor Markowicz, Krzysztof Moszczyński, Piotr Bizoń, Marek Blat, Michał Kwiecień, Włodzimierz Starkowski

2. AUSTRIA

Franz Terraneo, Sylvia Terraneo, Kurt Feichtinger, Robert Franzel, Heinrich Berger, Susanne Grümm, Hans-Richard Grümm, Peter Zelnik

3. LITHUANIA

Vytautas Vainikonis, Wojtek Olański, Apolinary Kowalski, Jacek Romański, Jonas Drobulis, Marek Witek, Bogusław Gierulski, Jerzy Russyan

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

QUALIFICATION (all times are p.m.)

Mon. 29 Jan, 7.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #1 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #2 (14 bds.)

Tue. 30 Jan. 7.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #3 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #4 (14 bds.)

Wed, 31 Jan. 7.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #5 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #6 (14 bds.)

Thu. 1 Feb. 7.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #7 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET Qual. Swiss Rd. #8 (14 bds.)

PLAY OFF AND 3RD PLACE SWISS (all times are p.m.)

Mon. 5 Feb. Round of 16 - 2 segments (14 bds each) 7.00 CET, 9.00 CET

PLAY OFF AND 3RD PLACE SWISS

Mon. 5 Feb. 7.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #1 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #1 (14 bds.)

Tue. 6 Feb, Quarterfinals - 2 segments (14 bds each)

7.00 CET, 9.00 CET

7.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #3 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #4 (14 bds.)

Wed. 7 Feb, Semifinals- 2 segments (14 bds each)

7.00 CET, 9.00 CET

7.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #5 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #6 (14 bds.)

Thu. 8 Feb, Final - 2 segments (14 bds each)

7.00 CET, 9.00 CET

7.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #1 (14 bds.)

9.00 CET 3rd Place Swiss Rd. #1 (14 bds.)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Here is the information about entry fee payment:

Address of the PBU:

Polski Związek Brydża Sportowego 00-019 Warszawa, ul. Złota 7/3.

Account for EURO payments (300 €):

SWIFT/BIC: PKOPPLPW

IBAN: PL23 1240 1040 1978 0011 0130 8604

Payment of:

Entry fee to the Transatlantic Seniors Cup.

Account for USD payments (300 \$):

SWIFT/BIC: PKOPPLPW

IBAN: PL 31 1240 1040 1787 0010 9967 8419

Payment of:

Entry fee to the Transatlantic Seniors Cup.

DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT IS JAN. 25th, 2024.

Please be advised that the above accounts are in euro and US dollars respectively, not in the Polish currency!

Wire transfers in any other currency will result in double currency conversion costs to be deducted from the amount transferred, which can make your exact fee insufficient.

IMPORTANT: Our bank only accepts conventional wire transfers. No credit card payments or on-line payments are supported.

The wire transfer should be sent by the sender's bank directly to our bank with the OUR cost option. Only this option is a guarantee that the recipient will receive the entire amount sent by the sender.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by:

email: beata.madej@pzbs.pl phone: +48 511 425 060

Transatlantic Cables

Mark Horton

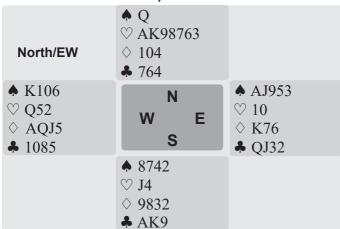
Back in the day, if you wanted to communicate with North America from Europe, your only option was to send it on a ship. That changed in the 19th Century when the concept of laying cables under the Atlantic Ocean became a reality. Nowadays we can communicate almost instantly with anyone, anywhere and that power has been harnessed in many different ways. It meant that the concept of playing a bridge event that encompassed teams from North America and Europe could be embraced, and since 2021 the Polish Bridge Union has organized the Transatlantic Seniors Cup.

Before we look back at the 2023 edition, here is a reminder of what happened in previous editions.

202I

The event was in memory of Julian Klukowski, one of Poland's most successful senior players. It attracted a world-class field of 38 teams who contested a 12 round Swiss after which the top 16 advanced to the knock-out phase. No less than 32 World Champions took part!

This was the decisive deal from the final between USA3 and Türkiye:



Open Room

W	N	E	S
Zorlu	Meckstroth	Avcioglu	Rodwell
4 ♠	3♡ all pass	3 🏟	pass

South cashed the Ace and King of Clubs and switched to the Jack of Hearts, North winning with the King and continuing with the Ace, declarer ruffing and running the nine of Spades. North won with the Queen and played the seven of Hearts. Declarer ruffed with the Jack of Spades and South pitched the nine of Clubs, ensuring the contract would go two down, -200.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Passell	Ince	Lair	Kokten
3NT	3♡ all pass	dble	pass

 $1 \diamondsuit 11-16, 2+\diamondsuit$, longer suit possible

I♠ Both minors, 5/4

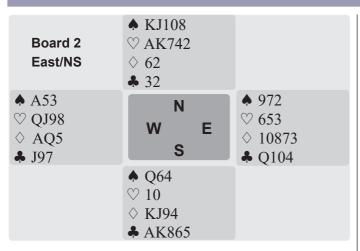
North led the King of Hearts and when South followed with the Jack North had to assume it was from a doubleton, otherwise defensive prospects were poor. Assuming South held a second heart could he have an entry? If so, which minor suit was the better bet? If South has say four diamonds and three clubs, does that affect the decision about the suit in which he is more likely to hold an ace? When North went with the seven of Clubs South won with the King and the heart return meant the contract was five down, -500 and Turkey had 7 IMPs.

I5 IMPs down, with only three to play USA 3 Levine needed swings, but the next two deals offered no scope so the II IMPs they gained on the final deal when Turkey bid a slam with three diamond losers was not enough.

2022

This time, 36 teams took part, including 18 World Champions. Once again the final featured teams representing Europe and North America, Lithuania meeting USA Lusky.

This deal from the final confirmed Garozzo's point of view, that anyone who could consistently find the correct opening lead would win everything the game has to offer:



Open Room

W	N	E	S
Aker	Romański	Simson	Kowalski
dble pass all pass	rdble* 2NT	pass pass pass	1 ♦ 2 ♣ 3NT

Rdbl 4+♡

I have a feeling that many of you will know my views about doubling with a balanced hand (especially opposite a passed partner), so I will not dwell upon West's contribution to the auction.

East led the $\clubsuit 9$ and West took the ace and switched to the $\heartsuit Q$. Declarer won and ducked a club, West continuing with the $\heartsuit J$. Declarer ducked and when West went back to spades he cashed his winners for +600.

As you can see, East needs to find an unlikely diamond (or heart) lead when West can win and switch to the $\heartsuit Q$. Interestingly when I presented it to the man on the Clapham omnibus he went for a heart!

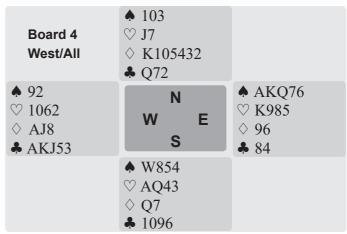
Closed Room

W Olański	N Doub	E Vainikonis	S Merblum
		pass	1 🐥
pass	100	pass	2♣
pass			

2. Precision style

Declarer took West's lead of the $\heartsuit Q$ in dummy and played three rounds of clubs, easily securing nine tricks for +110 but losing 10 IMPs.

The match mostly went the European's way, but the USA had their moments:



Open Room

W Doub	N Russyan	E Merblum	S Gierulski
1NT*	pass	2 🐥	pass
2 ♦ *	pass	3♠*	pass
3NT	pass		

INT 12-14 3♠ 5♠,4♡

North led the \heartsuit J and the trick was completed by the king, ace and two. It was virtually impossible for South to find the only winning move at this point, which is to switch to the \diamondsuit Q and he returned the \heartsuit 3. Declarer won with the ten and played a back a heart, South taking the queen and switching to the \diamondsuit Q. It was a case of 'too late the hero' as declarer could win with the ace, cross to dummy with a spade and play a club to the jack. When North won and returned the \clubsuit 7 declarer emerged with an overtrick, +630.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Kowalski	Casen	Romański	Krekorian
1♣*	pass	1 🔷	pass
1NT*	pass	2♦	pass
2NT	pass	3NT	all pass

North led the $\diamondsuit 4$ and declarer took South's queen with the ace, went to dummy with a spade and played a club for the six, jack and queen. The $\heartsuit J$ was covered by the king an ace and when South produced a

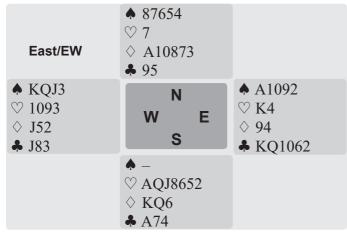
second diamond the contract was four down, -400 and 14 IMPs were recovered. Nevertheless, Lithuania won the match 148-99 and became the new holders of the Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy!

2023

By way of a scoop, here are some of the best deals from the 2023 contest, as recounted in the forthcoming Bridge 365, which will be published later this year by Master Point Press:

January 30

Since the onset of Covid, the Polish Bridge Union has organized the Transatlantic Seniors Cup, which has attracted players from around the world. This deal from the 2023 event reminded me of a line from the classic Ealing Studios comedy The Lavender Hill Mob, delivered by the character Mr. Pendlebury, played by Stanley Holloway, "For of all the sorrowful words of mouth or pen, the saddest are these: ,It could have been!"



Latvia v England Penfold

Open Room

W	N	Е	S
Smith	Ilzins	Brock	Romanovskis
		1 🐥	4♡
all pass			

West led the ♠K and declarer ruffed and played two rounds of hearts, easily securing 12 tricks, +480.

Closed Room

W Rubenis	N Preddy	E Birins	S Selway
		1♣*	4♡
all pass			

It was the same story here, no swing.

Three pairs failed to reach game, South starting with a double and then seeing partner pass a rebid of 2%/3%.

I have included the deal because there is no defence to $7 \diamondsuit (!)$ and there is a neat point if the final contract is $6 \heartsuit$ and West leads a club. Declarer wins and appreciating that East needs to hold $\heartsuit Kx$ plays a diamond, intending to put in dummy's ten. West must be alert and put in the jack!

Wouldn't that be something!

February I

East/NS	♦ 3♡ 87654◇ 109862♣ 42	
A98◇ A92◇ K74♣ Q1053	W E	♠ Q72♡ KQ103◇ A5♣ AKJ8
Ž.	★ KJ10654♡ J♦ QJ3♣ 976	

Germany v Belgium

Open Room

W Schilhart	N Kaplan	E Buchlev	S Polet
		1 🐥	1 🖈
2♣*	pas	2BA	pas
3BA	all pass		

2♣ Inverted, forcing

South led the $\triangle 10$ and declarer won with the queen, the early appearance of the $\heartsuit J$ meaning there were 12 tricks, +490.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Bigdeli	Marsal	Coenraets	Klumpp
6NT	all pass	2NT	pass

South led the $\clubsuit 7$ and declarer took four rounds in the suit, North pitching the $\heartsuit 5$ and the $\diamondsuit 6$ while South

discarded the \$\.46\$. When declarer continued with a spade to the queen South won and returned the jack and declarer had to lose another trick, -50 and an 11 IMP loss.

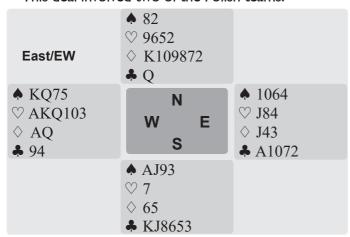
If declarer postpones a decision about the spades and plays on hearts he can cash four tricks in the suit, which puts South under pressure. Still, declarer would have to read the position to get home.

Anatol Filip of Slovakia was the only one to make 6NT. South had overcalled his I♣ opening with I♠ and he made no mistake, reducing down to three spades in each hand before endplaying South by exiting from dummy with the ♠8. It was worth I4 IMPs as 6NT went down in the other room.

No one found a route to 6.

February 2

This deal involved two of the Polish teams:



Poland Andrzejki v Poland Markowicz

Open Room

W Bizoń	N Henclik	E Blat	S Omernik
		pass	2 ♦ *
dble 4♡	pass all pass	2♡	pass

20 Spades and a minor, minimum 54

South led the \diamondsuit 5 for the queen and king and when North switched to the \clubsuit Q declarer won with the ace played a diamond to the ace and cashed the \heartsuit A. His next move was a heart to the eight, after which he could pitch a club on the \diamondsuit J. He then played a spade to the king, overtook the \heartsuit 10 and played a spade,

South taking the ace and switching to the \clubsuit K. Declarer ruffed with dummy's \heartsuit Q, drew the outstanding trump and cashed the \spadesuit Q for +620.

There are a few points of interest.

If North puts in the $\heartsuit 9$ on the second round of the suit declarer is deprived of a vital entry and should go down.

Declarer can avoid this by immediately playing the \heartsuit 3. If North finds the play of the \heartsuit 9 declarer wins, discards a club on the \diamondsuit J, plays a spade to the king and then ducks a spade, eventually scoring a spade ruff.

As the play went having won a trick with the $\triangle A$, South must exit with the $\triangle J$, not the $\triangle K$. North can ruff dummy's queen and exit with a diamond leaving dummy with a losing spade. This defence can be forestalled if declarer starts spades by leading the ten on the first round of the suit, intending to run it if South plays low!

Closed Room

W Gotard	N Starkowski	E Sikorski	S Kwiecień
		pass	2 * *
dble	pass	2 ♦	pass
2 %	all pass		

2♣ 10-14 HCP, 5+♣ and 4M or 6+♣

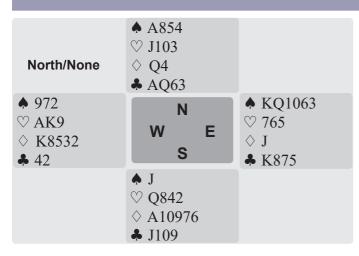
That meant the loss of 10 IMPs.

As you can see, the easy contract for EW is 3NT and that is what Austria did against the Netherlands to collect 10 IMPs.

February 6

Halcyon Days

I was struggling to find a title for my report on the first day of the Transatlantic Seniors semifinals when, while listening to the news about the dreadful earthquakes in Türkiye, the announcer used the phrase, *halcyon days*. As I prepared to open the BBO files I wondered if they would reveal a calm, peaceful set of deals, or something more demanding.



Austria v Belgium

Open Room

W	N	E	S
Bigdeli	Feichtinger	Coenraets	F.Terraneo
all pass	1 🏚	pass	1NT

North's Blue Club I♠ picked off the opponent's fit.

West led the $\diamondsuit 3$ and declarer put up dummy's queen, collecting a bonus with the appearance of East's jack. With open cards one can see the advantage of continuing with a low club at this point, but declarer made the natural looking play of the $\heartsuit J$, West winning and returning the $\diamondsuit 2$. That sealed the defenders fate, as declarer won with the six and ran the $\clubsuit J$. East won and switched to the $\spadesuit K$, but it was too late. Declarer took the third round with dummy's ace, cashed his club winners and then played on hearts for eight tricks. +120.

Closed Room

W Franzel	N Kaplan	E S.Terraneo	S Kwiecień
	1 🐥	1 🏟	dble
2 ♦	pass	2♠	pass
3 ♠	all pass		

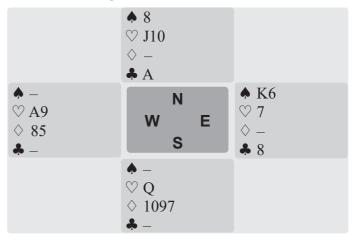
South led the \clubsuit J and declarer won with the king and played the \lozenge J, South taking the ace and returning the ten to dummy's king, declarer pitching the \heartsuit 5 and then ducking a club. North won with the queen and switched to the \heartsuit J, declarer taking three rounds of the suit, ruffing, a club, overruffing a diamond and

playing another club. South ruffed in with the \oint J, but declarer's \oint KQ10 were good for two tricks, +140.

To defeat 3 the defenders need to get in two rounds of trumps which means South must either lead one on the go, or start with a heart. If declarer wins that in dummy and plays a club North withholds the ace and declarer wins and plays a diamond, but South can take the ace and switch to a spade.

You might ask why switching to a spade would not work as the play went?

The answer is that declarer will win the second spade and exit with a club. North wins to play a third spade, but declarer plays another club which South must win. Now North gets squeezed in the four-card ending:

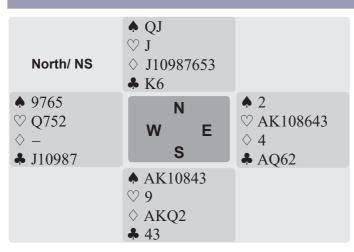


When declarer plays a diamond from dummy the best North can do is ruff, but declarer overruffs and plays the ♠6 pitching a diamond, which finishes North off.

February 7

Classical Choice

It is a hidden fact that many bridge journalists write while listening to classical music. Barry Rigal prefers works involving the piano, while Ron Tacchi tunes to Classic FM. I often listen to pieces that reflect the way a session is unfolding. Day two of the Transatlantic Seniors semifinals proved to be one requiring something that reflected the dramatic nature of the deals. Mars, the Bringer of War, and the opening to Gustav Holst's The Planets was a good choice for the third set.



Austria v Belgium

Open Room

W	N	Е	S
Polet	Feichtinger	Kaplan	F.Terraneo
	pass	100	4 🏟
pass	pass	5♡	pass
pass	5 ♠	pass	pass
6♡	pass	pass	6 ^
7♡	all pass		

What an auction!

I happened to be watching it unfold and though there were numerous points of interest. First West's disciplined pass over $4 \clubsuit$. Then East's decision to rebid 5 % rather than introduce the clubs (would North then have been so keen to bid $5 \spadesuit$). North's $5 \spadesuit$ suggested he expected South to have a decent hand and West's 6 % seemed automatic, especially as partner might well be void in spades. When South pressed on, West felt compelled to come again.

It appeared to be a great decision, as I thought there was every chance South would lead a top diamond, which would have allowed the contract to make. However, not for the first time my armchair reflections proved to be wrong as South led the $\triangle A$ and that was one down, -100.

Closed Room

W Franzel	N Bakkes	E S. Terraneo	S Engel
	pass	1♡*	dble
3♡	5 ♦	5♡	6 ♦
6♡	dble	all pass	

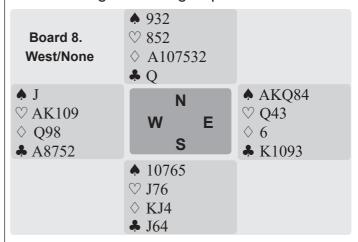
1% 4+%, 11-16, may be canapé

3♥ Less than an invitation

South led the ♠K so the defenders got a trick, +1210 and 16 IMPs for Austria.

That was +650 but a loss of 8 IMPs that saw Poland I win the set 33-11 to lead 51-23 overnight.

For the first time the final was an all-European affair, Austria meeting Poland 1. It was a close run thing, the issue being in doubt right up to the end:



Open Room

W	N	Е	S
Bizoń	Franzel	Blat	S.Terraneo
1♣*	pass	1 🌲	pass
1NT	pass	2 ♦ *	pass
2♡	pass	2 🌲	pass
3♣	pass	5 ♣	all pass

I♣ Polish Club

2♦ Game forcing

North led the $\Diamond A$ and switched to the $\heartsuit 5$, declarer taking South's jack with the ace and playing a club to dummy's king. He followed that with a club to the eight and claimed the rest, +420.

Closed Room

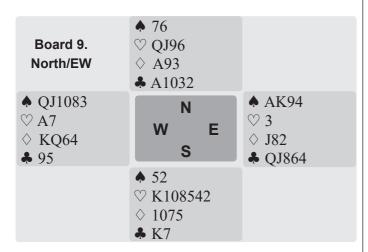
W	N	Е	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
1♡*	pass	2 . *	pass
3♣	pass	3 ^	pass
4♣*	pass	4 ◊ *	pass
4♡*	pass	5 ♣ *	pass
6♣	all pass		

1 % 4 + %, 11-16, may be canapé

2♣ Game forcing, 4+♣, canapé possible

- 4♣ Aces optional
- 40 Interested in slam
- 4♥ Ace asking
- 5♣ 2 out of 5, no ♣Q

South led the ♦4 and North took the ace and returned the five, declarer ruffing in dummy and eventually cashing the ♣K. He then ran the nine for +920, setting up a grandstand finish as Austria closed to 6 IMPs.



Open Room

W	N	E	S
Bizoń	Franzel	Blat	S.Terraneo
4 🏟	1♡* all pass	dble	4♡

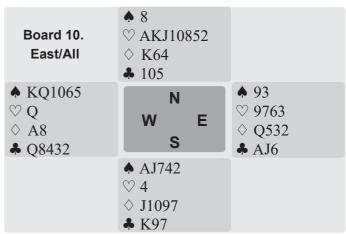
I II-16, 4+♥, canapé possible

Closed Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
	1 * *	pass	1♡
1 🖈	2♡	4 🌲	all pass

I♣ Polish Club

No swing. Would the last board come to the rescue?



Open Room

W Bizoń	N Franzel	E Blat	S S.Terraneo
		pass	pass
1 🖍	4♡	all pass	

East led the $\clubsuit 3$ and declarer took dummy's ace and played a heart. When the queen appeared, he drew trumps and played the $\diamondsuit K$, West winning and switching to the $\clubsuit 3$, declarer claiming when East put in the jack, +620.

Closed Room

W	N	Е	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
		pass	pass
1 🌲	4♡	pass	pass
dble	all pass		

East led the ♠9 and having won with the ace declarer played the ♦J. If West follows with the eight and declarer runs it East wins and might find the winning defence of returning a diamond when West wins and switches to a club to secure a match winning diamond ruff.

We will never know, as West went up with the ⋄A and exited with the eight, declarer taking the king and cashing the ♡A. In due course the ♣K became the game and match winning trick as Poland I claimed ownership of the Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy!