

4th TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP

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



FINAL BULLETIN Monday, March 4th. 2024

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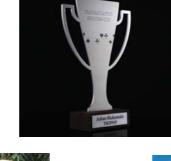
WINNERS: AUSTRIA



TERRANEO



KURT FEICHTINGER





YIVIA TERRANEO



ZELNIK





VICTOR MARKOWICZ



PIOTR BIZOŃ



ROBERT FRANZEL

MAREK BLAT



HEINRICH BERGER

MICHAŁ KWIECIEŃ



WŁODZIMIERZ STARKOWSKI



KRZYSZTOF MOSZCZYŃSKI

3. NL HOK

2. POLAND 1









ROALD

LEO BAS RAMER DE BRUIN VAN DE BROM BAKKER LESMEISTER

KEES JOHN

GERT-JAN ROS

FRANS BORM

RODERIK ORANJE

VICTOR ORANIE

Dear Friends

After two weeks the tournament is over. Competition had the spirit od fair play and friendly atmosphere.

We congratulate the winners and thank all participants for their efforts.

We hope that you have enjoyed the tournament and in a year we will meet again in the fifth Transatlantic Seniors Cup for Julian Klukowski Trophy.

		Organizers: Canadian Bridge Federation Polish Bridge Union Tournament Staff
TOP OF THE BUTLER		IRONMAN
(player who played at leas	t 112 boards, 50%))	There were some players who played ALL the 224 boards of the tournament:
0.92/112 B.Shenkin	SCOTLAND BLUE	
0.79/126 B.Spears 0.74/224 M.Lair 0.74/154 M.Abecassis 0.74/154 M.Bompis 0.69/196 M.Seligman 0.64/112 JP.Derivaz 0.61/126 B. de Bruin 0.59/112 J.Krekorian 0.59/112 P.Weichsel 0.58/140 R.Franzel 0.58/140 S.Teraneo	SCOTLAND BLUE USA SELIGMAN FRANCE VINCIG. FRANCE VINCIG. USA SELIGMAN SWISS CHEESE NL HOK USA SIMSON USA SIMSON AUSTRIA AUSTRIA	M.Lair USA SELIGMAN A.Goodman USA GOODMAN P.Cardwell THE DUTCH MASTERS T.Lucassen THE DUTCH MASTERS R.Walker THE DUTCH MASTERS J.Verhees THE DUTCH MASTERS A few played one session less: D.Simson USA SIMSON P.Bizoń POLAND 1 M.Blat POLAND 1
0.56/112 W.Gosschalk 0.56/112 W. van Eijck 0.52/112 D.Schaltz 0.52/112 P.Schaltz 0.48/210 P.Bizoń 0.48/210 M.Blat 0.46/112 JM.Backes 0.46/112 Z.Engel	NL SENIORS NL SENIORS DENMARK DENMARK POLAND 1 POLAND 1 BELGIUM BELGIUM	Website of the tournament: https://r.pzbs.pl/2024/tsc/web/

BBO OR REALBRIDGE?

Dear Friends

We are already thinking about next edition of TSC (we are planning to organize it at the break of January and February 2025). As we have now alternate place to play to BBO - RealBridge platform, we would like to get your preferences, your opinions - where would you like to play next year. Please, share it with us by e-mail to:

wlodzimierz.starkowski@pzbs.pl marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl

Battle of the Giants

Mark Horton

Welcome to the final of the 2024 Transatlantic Seniors Cup between Poland I and Austria. Fasten your safety belts as the roller coaster is about to depart.

Board 2 East/NS	 ▲ J765 ♡ 652 ◇ K ♣ J10872 	
 ▲ A102 ♡ A743 ◊ AQ876 ♣ 6 	N W E S	 ▲ KQ983 ♡ QJ ◊ J109 ♣ 954
	 ♦ 4 ♡ K1098 ◊ 5432 ♦ AKQ3 	

Open Room

W	N	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
pass	1♠	pass	1
all pass		pass	1NT

West led the \heartsuit 4 for the jack and king and declarer cashed five clubs and exited with the \diamondsuit K, the defenders taking the rest, -100.

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
		2 🄶	dble
4 🏟	all pass		

South led the \clubsuit A and switched to the $\heartsuit 10$, declarer winning with the $\heartsuit Q$ and running the $\diamondsuit J$ to North's king. The club return was ruffed in dummy and a heart to the jack was taken by South's king. At this point returning either minor suit would defeat 4 \bigstar , but South exited with the $\heartsuit 9$ and declarer discarded a club on dummy's $\heartsuit A$, cashed the $\bigstar A$ and then ran the $\bigstar 10$. He could ruff a heart to hand, draw trumps and claim, +420 and 8 IMPs to Poland.

Given South's double, perhaps declarer should ruff the club with dummy's $\triangleq 10$, cash the $\triangleq A$ and then play a spade to the nine.



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
1♡	3♠	4NT*	pass 5♠
pass*	pass	dble	all pass

4NT RKCB

Pass '0, I hope'

East led the $\heartsuit 3$ and declarer won perforce with dummy's ace and played the $\diamond 2$, West winning with the $\diamond 7$, cashing the king, ace and queen of spades and exiting with the $\clubsuit 10$ which meant the contract was four down, -800.

Closed Room

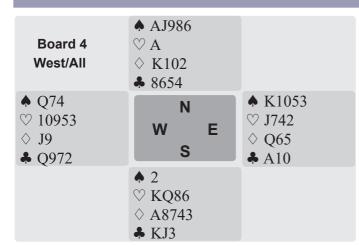
W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
1♡	2 🛧	3♠*	pass 4♠
dble	pass	4NT*	pass
5♣*	pass	5♡	all pass

3♠ Hearts

4NT RKCB

5 I keycard

North led the \$6 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played three rounds of spades discarding dummy's remaining diamonds before playing a heart, +650, but 4 IMPs for Austria.



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
pass	1 🔶	pass	2 ♣ *
pass	2♠	pass	3NT
all pass			

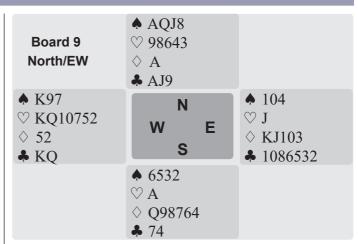
2 2+ 🛧

West led the $\heartsuit 5$ to dummy's ace and declarer cashed the $\diamond K$ and then ran the ten, West winning with the jack and switching to the $\blacklozenge Q$ (a low spade is best, as if declarer takes dummy's ace he will have five losers, but otherwise he never scores it). Declarer took dummy's ace and played a club, putting in the jack. West won and now a spade ensured three more tricks for the defence, -100.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
pass pass pass all pass	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \clubsuit \\ 3 \diamondsuit \\ 3 \clubsuit \end{array} $	pass pass pass	2 ↔ 3♡ 3NT

West led the \clubsuit 2, East taking the ace and returning the \clubsuit 10. Declarer won with the \clubsuit K and played a diamond to the ten and queen. On this layout he now had nine tricks, +600 and 12 IMPs for Austria.



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
	1♡	pass	1BA*
pass	2**	pass	2♦
all pass			

INT Forcing for one round

2♣ 2+♣

There is a method called MAFIA (Majors always first in answering) – it would have worked well here.

West led the $\heartsuit K$ and declarer won, played a spade to the queen, cashed the $\diamondsuit A$ and ruffed a heart as East pitched the $\bigstar 10$. A spade to the jack saw East ruff and switch to the $\bigstar 3$, declarer winning with dummy's ace, ruffing a heart and playing a spade to the ace. East ruffed, but declarer was assured of nine tricks, +110.

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
	1NT	pass	2 ♣
$2\heartsuit$	dble	pass	2♠
pass	4 🏟	all pass	

West led the $\heartsuit K$ and having won declarer played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a heart (East pitching the $\clubsuit 2$) ruffed a diamond and played a heart, discarding the $\bigstar 4$ when East ruffed with the $\bigstar 10$. The club return was taken by dummy's ace and declarer ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and ruffed a diamond which, with the $\bigstar A$, added up to 10 tricks, +420 and 7 IMPs.

Board 10 East/All	 ↑ 74 ♡ Q2 ◊ Q105 ♣ KJ8654 	
 ▲ A863 ♡ 10964 ◇ A4 ♣ A72 	N W E S	 ▲ K1092 ♡ 753 ◊ 8762 ♣ 103
	 ▲ QJ5 ◇ AKJ8 ◇ KJ93 ♣ O9 	

Open Room

W	N	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
pass pass all pass	2 * * 2NT	pass pass pass	1NT 2♡ 3NT

2♣ 'Stayman or invitational without 4♡/♠ or RFG'

West led the $\clubsuit6$ and declarer won the third round of the suit and played the \clubsuitQ , followed by the $\diamondsuit3$. West took his tricks at that point, one down, -100.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
pass	3NT	pass all pass	1NT

On this unrevealing auction West led the \heartsuit 4 and declarer won with the king and played on clubs, assured of nine tricks, +600 and 12 IMPs that took the score to 35-12 in favour of Austria.

Board 11 South/None	 ♦ K109654 ♡ 98 ◊ KQ3 ♦ K5 	
 ▲ QJ87 ♡ 1073 ◇ 65 ♣ QJ86 	N W E S	 ▲ 3 ◇ KQ62 ◇ J4 ♣ 1097432
	 ▲ A2 ♡ AJ54 ◇ A109872 ♣ A 	

Open Room	
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•			
W	Ν	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
			$1 \diamondsuit$
pass	1♠	pass	2♡
pass	2NT*	pass	3♦
pass	4 ♣ *	pass	4♡*
pass	4♠ *	pass	4NT*
pass	5 ♣ *	pass	5♡*
pass	6�*	all pass	
pass	5 ♣ *	pass	

- 2NT Game forcing
- 4 Cue
- 4♡ Cue
- 4**≜** Cue
- 4NT RKCB
- 5 I keycard
- 5♡ ◊Q?

West led the $\diamond 5$ for the jack and ace and declarer cashed the $\bigstar A$ and continued with a spade for the eight and nine, East ruffing and switching to the $\heartsuit Q$. Declarer won, went to dummy with a diamond, ruffed a spade and claimed, +920.

I don't think you would mind being in 70, would you?

Closed Room

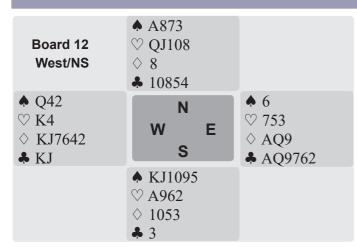
W	Ν	Е	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
			1 * *
pass	1♠*	pass	2 \diamond
pass	3 🔶	pass	3♡
pass	$4\diamond$	pass	6 \diamond
all pass			

- I 🕭 Strong

West led the $\mathbf{A}Q$ and having won declarer cashed the A and the $\mathbf{A}A$ and played a spade to the king. When East ruffed and switched to the ∇K there were only 11 tricks, -50 and 14 IMPs to Poland.

Legendary football manager Brian Clough said, 'It only takes a second to score a goal'. One might add, 'even an own goal'.

5



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
$1\diamondsuit$	pass	2 ♣ *	pass
$2\Diamond$	pass	3◇	pass
4 ♣ *	pass	5 ♣ *	pass
5◇	all pass		

- 2 Game forcing, canapé possible
- 4 RKCB
- 5♣ 'No extras, 2 keycards + ♣Q'

I wonder if East meant to type $\Diamond Q$?

North led the $\heartsuit Q$ and South took the ace and returned the $\heartsuit 2$ (not easy to see that a club switch is a killer) declarer winning with the king, cashing the $\diamondsuit J$, crossing to dummy with the $\diamondsuit Q$ and playing a club to the king, followed by the $\clubsuit J$. South could ruff and play a spade for one down, -50.

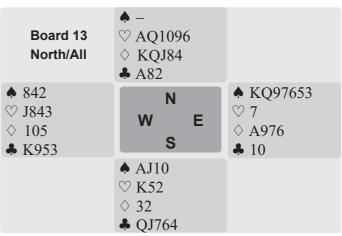
There was an amusing possibility – if declarer plays a spade after crossing to dummy South wins with the \bigstar K and plays a diamond to dummy's ace. Declarer ruffs a heart and cashes two diamonds, squeezing North in the black suits.

Perhaps the strongest line is to cross to dummy with a diamond at trick three and play a spade. One spade ruff will be enough for 11 tricks even if the clubs are 4-1.

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
$1 \diamondsuit$	pass	2 🐥	2 🔶
pass	4 🏟	5 🛇	all pass

North led the \bigstar A and switched to the \heartsuit Q, but after winning the third trick with the \heartsuit K declarer could ruff a spade and draw trumps, +400 and 10 IMPs, Poland suddenly ahead by an IMP!



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
	1♡	4 🏟	dble
pass all pass	6◊	pass	60

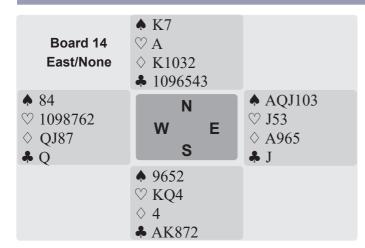
East led the \clubsuit 10 and when dummy's queen held declarer played a diamond for the five, queen and ace. East returned the \diamond 6 to the ten and king, and declarer cashed the \heartsuit A, played a heart to dummy's king, pitched a club on the \bigstar A and drew trumps via the marked finesse. When the diamonds failed to divide he was one down, -100.

At double dummy (but keep in mind East's overcall) declarer can get home by playing a heart to the ten at trick two. He can then play to ruff a diamond in dummy with the $\heartsuit K$.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
pass	$1 \diamond 4 \heartsuit$	1 ♠ all pass	3NT

East's club lead saw dummy's jack hold the trick, and declarer took two rounds of hearts ending in dummy, ditched a club on the A, drew trumps and played on diamonds for 10 tricks and 12 IMPs.



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
		1 *	pass
1NT	pass	2�*	pass
2♡	3♣	3♡	3♠*
pass all pass	3NT	pass	5♣

- I ▲ II-I6, 4+♠, canapé possible
- 2 'Both ways possible'

East led the \heartsuit 3 to declarer's ace and a club to dummy's ace was followed by the \heartsuit KQ pitching spades and a claim for 12 tricks, +420.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
pass	5 🐥	1 ♠ all pass	2♣

West led the \bigstar 4 and declarer was down before he had started, East scoring two spades and the \diamond A for -50 and 10 IMPs.

It had been an astonishing session, Austria leading 47-46.

And the Winner is... Mark Horton

We are about to reach the climax of the 2024 edition of the Transatlantic Seniors Cup, the fourth occasion on which teams from around the world have used the power of the Internet to test themselves against each other.

This tournament, which arose out of the pandemic thanks to the largesse of the *Polish Bridge Union* and *Canadian Bridge Federation*, has become a permanent fixture in the calendar, bringing together a formidable group of players.

I recommend you visit the tournament web site and see just how many World, European and National Champions took part this year.

As, ever, part of the fun for me was checking how many of them I had sat opposite (or opposed) along with the recollection of results, both good and bad.

The organisation was immaculate, and the event contested in great spirit. The play was at times outstanding – several deals might be contenders for one of the International Bridge Press Association's Annual Awards.

When I mentioned to Marek the plans for 2025, his enigmatic reply was 'I hope we will have enough

stamina to organize it once again!'

Players and spectators, look out for the next edition of the Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy!

I expect by now you are eager to see some bridge...

On the opening deal EW held

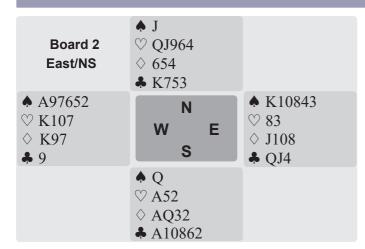
♠- ♡A1075 ◊QJ73 ♣A10742 opposite

▲K964 ♡KQ86 ◊AK9 **♣**93.

When East opened INT South overcalled $3 \ge 10 \ge 0.05$ with $AJ108752 \heartsuit J3 \diamondsuit 10 \ge 0.05$.

When West doubled for takeout Poland stopped in 3NT while Austria was pushed to 5%, North bidding 4 \clubsuit over East's 4%.

It meant a couple of overtrick IMPs for Austria.



Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
		pass	1 🖡 *
$1 \heartsuit *$	$2 \heartsuit *$	3♠	4♡
4	pass	pass	dble
all pass			

- I 뢒 Polish Club
- |♡ 4+♠
- 2♡ Non forcing

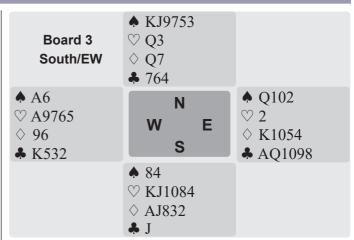
South led the riangle Q and declarer won with the king and played the $\diamond 10$, South taking the ace and returning the $\diamond 3$. When dummy's nine held declarer overtook it with the $\diamond J$, played a third diamond and a club, claiming when the $\heartsuit K$ scored, +590.

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
	0	pass	1NT
2 \diamond *	2♡	pass	3♡
pass	pass	3 🏟	all pass

20 One major

South led the A and continued with the 2. Declarer pitched dummy's 7 which meant he took nine tricks, +140 but 10 IMPs for Austria.



Open Room

W	N	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
pass 2♡* 3♣	1♠ dble* all pass	dble pass	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ pass \end{array} $

2♡ 'Good hand'

Dble Heart honour

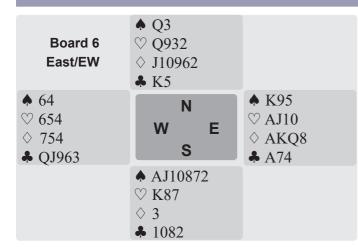
North led the \clubsuit 6, declarer winning with dummy's queen and playing two rounds of spades, North winning with the king and switching to the \Diamond Q for the king and ace. Declarer took South's return of the \heartsuit 4 with the \heartsuit A and played the \diamond 9 to South's jack, ruffed the diamond return with the \clubsuit K and claimed ten tricks, +130.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
1♡	1 🔺	dble	pass pass
2♣	pass	2♠	$3\diamond$ all pass
pass	pass	3NT	

South led the \bigstar 8 and North won with the king and switched to the \Diamond Q for the king and ace. When South continued with the \heartsuit K, declarer took dummy's ace, but North fatally held on to the \heartsuit Q. The \diamond 9 lost to South's jack, and when he continued with the \heartsuit J North had to win, declarer soon claiming the rest, +600 and 10 IMPs back to Poland.

A part score swing of 6 IMPs handed Poland the lead in the session and the match.



Open Room

W	N	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
pass	pass	1 ♣ *	2♠
3NT	all pass	2NT	pass

|♣ |6+

South led the \bigstar J (some pairs play that the lead of the ten indicates a strong holding headed by the \bigstar KJ or \bigstar AJ) and when North played the queen declarer won with the king and played two rounds of clubs, North winning with the king as South followed with the \bigstar 8 and then the \bigstar 2. The convention card says, 'Smith Peter v NT (low positive)' and when North switched to the \diamondsuit J declarer was +600 instead of -200.

By the way, should ,,longer with no side entry" be the exception of 'Smith Peter' in favor of count?

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
		2NT*	all pass

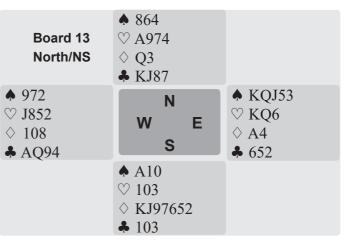
2NT 20-21

South led the \bigstar J for the queen and king and declarer cashed two diamonds and then cut adrift with the \bigstar 9, South taking two tricks in the suit and then switching to the \heartsuit 7 for the queen and ace. South took the \heartsuit J with the king and cashed his spades for one down, -100 and a 12 IMP loss.

On Board 12 NS had ▲A10 ♡A8 ◊AKJ82 ♣QJ105

facing **▲653** ♡J7 ◊94 **♣**AK7642

and both teams bid 6. Clubs were 2-1 and diamonds 4-2, declarer establishing a diamond for a heart discard, +1370.



Open Room

W	N	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
	pass	1NT	all pass

South led the \Diamond 7 and declarer took North's queen with the ace and played the \bigstar Q, South winning and cashing his diamonds. In the ending South could switch to a club, but declarer wisely refused the finesse, settling for two down, -200.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
	pass	1NT	all pass

South led the $\heartsuit10$ and declarer won with the \heartsuit K and played the \bigstar K, South taking the ace and continuing with the $\heartsuit3$. Declarer won with the \heartsuitQ , cashed the \bigstarQ and played a club to the queen and king. He won the spade exit and had he cashed another spade North would have been in trouble, but he played a heart which meant he finished with eight tricks, +120 and 8 IMPs that took the session score to 28-24 in favour of Austria.

Alas, the last board was a damp squib, a dull as ditch water 3NT.

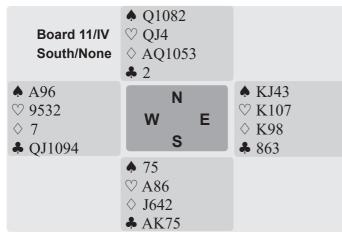
Hail Austria, winners of the Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy!

9

Third Place Swiss Artur Wasiak

The main actors in the contest for bronze medals were NL Hok and England Pryor, who initially did not qualify for the top 16, as well as Sweden and Belgium, who lost their first knock-out matches on Monday. Let's take a look at some boards from this stage of our tournament.

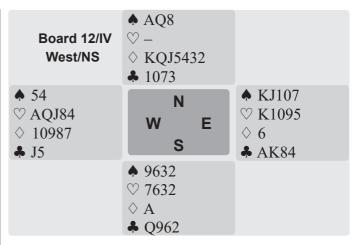
In the fourth round, England Pryor took the lead by taking all the 20 VPs in from their match against Denmark. One of the swings occurred in the board that looked quite simple:



After an uncontested bidding NS pair got to 3NT. West led $\clubsuit Q$, declarer won and took the diamond finesse. East continued clubs with the declarer winning the third round of the suit and taking the established diamond tricks.

The defenders had a few chances to exchange suit preference signals, however, something went wrong. East discarded one of his hearts (West having discarded $\heartsuit 9$ earlier) and in the ending English declarer took 3 heart tricks. 400 and 7 IMPs to England when the other table played a diamond part score.

The result of this match was 59-2. In the same round, Canada Kokish and Sweden would end their encounter with 7-7 tie (and the biggest swing of 3 IMPs) if the Canadians didn't get too high in board 12:

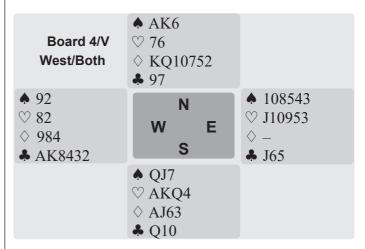


Canada-Kokish v Sweden

W Elmroth	N Silver	E Eliasson	S Carruthers
2♡	3 🛇	4 \diamond	dble
4♡	5 \diamond	dble	all pass

Should the double of $4\diamond$ be only lead-directing, or should it encourage partner to bid the diamonds higher? After an apparent misunderstanding NS pair went for a number in their doubled contract – 800 compared with 420 gave 9 IMPs for Sweden and the final result of this match became 16-9.

England Pryor had another good match in the fifth round. After their active bidding the opponents from Romania Bucharest team were faced with a tough decision:



England-Pryor v Romania Bucharest

W Kendrick	N Urseanu	E Ward	S Savin
3 🐥	3 🛇	5 🐥	6 \diamond
all pass			

Based on opponents' bidding, South could expect his partner to have short diamonds. The decision bo bid a slam seems reasonable but in this case it resulted in 12 IMPs for the English players.

Round 6 started with another problem with a theme of active bidding. This time West had to decide whether to reopen the bidding after a Drury sequence.

What would you bid with

♠ 86 ♡ Q6 ◊ Q1094 ♣ AQ862

(love all) when the bidding went:

W	Ν	Е	S
pass	pass 2♣*	pass pass	$1 \bigcirc 2 \diamond *$
pass 2	2♡	pass	pass

2♣ – Drury,

 $2\Diamond$ – minimal opening or natural diamonds.

BG Olofsson opted for 2NT (minors). In theory, this decision didn't matter much – the Swedes could take 7 tricks playing diamonds and their opponents had 9 with hearts as trumps. However, if you don't know you opponents' cards, it's not that simple.

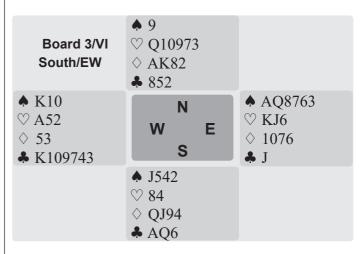
Board 1/VI North/None	 ▲ J743 ♡ K983 ◇ A5 ♣ J103 	
 ♦ 86 ♡ Q6 ◊ Q1094 ♣ AQ862 	N W E S	 ▲ KQ109 ♡ 72 ◇ J863 ♣ K95
	 ▲ A52 ♡ AJ1054 ◇ K72 ♣ 74 	

Belgium v Sweden

W Olofsson	N Coenraets	E Finnsson	S Bigdeli
	pass	pass	10
pass	2 🐥	pass	2 🛇
pass	2♡	pass	pass
2NT	pass	3 🛇	3♡
all pass			

Faramarz Bigdeli for Belgium bid 3 \heartsuit . Then he decided to finesse against $\heartsuit Q$ in East's hand, taking into account West's action in bidding. The other table played 2 \heartsuit with an overtrick, 5 IMPs for Sweden. This deal brings to mind the advice you can find in Zia's book: active bidding with useless side queen can cause The said queen to take a trick when you become a defender.

In this round we could watch the first battle between NL Hok and England Pryor. After a defensive error Roderik Oranje got a chance to make an unmakeable game.



W	N	E	S
V.Oranje	Shields	R.Oranje	Chamberlain
pass	2♡*	2 🏟	pass 3♣*
dble	3 ♦	pass	pass
3♡	pass	3NT	all pass

 $2\heartsuit$ – hearts and minor,

3♣ – pass or correct.

4th TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP

The defense started with $\Diamond Q$ and it seemed that they might be able to take the first 5 tricks. But

11

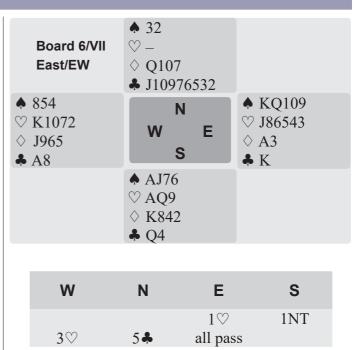
when South took $\Diamond Q$ and $\Diamond J$, he switched to a heart, giving his opponent a chance. Knowing that North has lengths in both red suits, Oranje started with a spade to dummy's $\bigstar 10$. Successful finesse gave him 9 tricks and 13 IMPs (the other table was in 4 \bigstar down 2). NL Hok won this match significantly, 42-8.

Let's move to the final day of the competition.

Board 3/VII South/EW	 ▲ J108764 ♡ 82 ◇ 6 ♣ J942 	
 ▲ AKQ ◇ Q9654 ◇ J1087 ♣ 10 	N W E S	 ▲ 3 ◇ KJ1073 ◇ AK3 ♣ KQ73
	 ♦ 952 ♡ A ◊ Q9542 ♦ A865 	

W	N	E	S
Engel	Lucassen	Backès	Walker
1♡	2 🏟	3 ♠	pass 4♠
dble	pass	4NT	pass
5♣	pass	5♡	all pass

Most tables finished the bidding in 5 \heartsuit after their opponents wanted to play 4 \clubsuit . Zvi Engel for Belgium, in the match against The Dutch Masters, won the diamond lead in dummy and cashed three to spades to discard \diamond 3 and \diamond K. This way he avoided conceding a diamond ruff. The line of play was duplicated in other matches by Mike Passell, Jacek Leśniczak and Hans Frerichs – but it was absent in some other declarers play, including one of The Dutch Masters in Engel's match (13 IMPs for Belgium).



After the bidding as above or after some similar sequence most of the field played 5. The contract had no legitimate chance but, somewhat surprisingly, it was made 6 times, including both rooms at table number 2. The play started usually with \mathbf{A} K to the ace, spade discard on dummy's $\mathbf{\nabla}$ A and $\mathbf{A}Q$... Taking the third trick with \mathbf{A} A was not a good idea for West players.

In the match of two leading teams, Sweden had some bad luck in board 11 when Anders Morath and Bengt-Erik Efraimsson bid 7 \diamond . The grand slam had to go down because of 4-1 break of key side suit. The pair from NL Hok finished the bidding in 5 \diamond which resulted in deserved minus score in Butler classification but significant plus score in the match.

In the last board NS pairs could make a game of 5° or 3NT but only if played by North. One of the pairs didn't get into the bidding and took +50 by beating opponents' 2° . The other table got to 5° but South as declarer didn't have a chance to succeed – down 2 doubled.

You can check the details of the two boards mentioned here in the write-up of the final match by Mark Horton. After taking IMPs in both of those boards NL Hok won the match 50-29 and Sweden dropped to the third place.

Before the last round, NL Hok (leading the field) had nearly 13 VPs over English Pryor. The two teams faced each other again (their previous match in round

6 finished with high win for NL Hok). The English needed a similar score for their side to finish TSC 2024 on the podium.

After over half of the match NL Hok led 34-17 but the last boards caused the change of lead (but only in the match, not in the whole 3rd place swiss). In board 9 there was a problem which game to play. The Dutch pair solved it very unsuccessfully, trying to make 4 with trumps Kxxx-AQ. The last swing occured in board 12, this board produced some IMPs also in the match between Sweden and Belgium (table 2).

Board 12/VIII West/NS	 ▲ A10 ♡ A8 ◊ AKJ82 ♣ QJ105 	
 ♦ KJ942 ♡ KQ962 ◊ 63 ♦ 9 	N W E S	 ▲ Q87 ♡ 10543 ◇ Q1075 ♣ 83
	 ♠ 653 ♡ J7 ◊ 94 ♣ AK7642 	

NL Hok v England Pryor

Open	Room

W	N	E	S
Chamberlain	Lesmeister	Shields	Ros
pass all pass	2NT	pass	3NT

Closed Room

W de Bruin	N Sowter	E Ramer	S Robinson
1 🏟	dble	2 🏟	4 🐥
pass	6♣	all pass	

NL Hok v England Pryor

Open Room

W Polet	N Nilsland	E Kaplan	S
2 * *	dble		Bjerregård 3♣
pass	6♣	all pass	

2 - preemptive with both majors or strong.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Efraimsson	Coenraets	Morath	Bigdeli
1 ♠	dble	2♠	3 ♣
3 ♠	5♣	all pass	

With diamonds 4-2 making the slam was easy. 12 IMPs for England Pryor against NL Hok and 13 IMPs for Sweden against Belgium.

English Pryor won the match 49-34, not enough to overtake NL Hok, but enough to finish the competition ahead of Sweden.

Congratulations to the top teams of 3rd place Swiss... and of course to Austria and Poland who played an exciting final.

INVITATION TO THE BIDDING POLL OF "BRYDŻ"

I am not only editor of this bulletin, but also editor of the oldest Polish bridge magazine (est. 1956) "Brydż". One of the most interesting features of it is bidding poll, in form similar to The Bridge World "Master Solvers Club".

If anyone of you would like to join my group of the experts, please, send e-mail to me: marek.wojcicki@bridge.com.pl.

Marek Wójcicki