



4th TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP

Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy

Jan. 29th - Feb. 8th 2024



FINAL BULLETIN

Monday, March 4th. 2024

Editors: Mark Horton, Marek Wójcicki, Artur Wasiaik



WINNERS: AUSTRIA



FRANZ
TERRANEO



SYLVIA
TERRANEO



KURT
FEICHTINGER



ROBERT
FRANZEL



HEINRICH
BERGER



PETER
ZELNIK



2. POLAND 1



VICTOR
MARKOWICZ



PIOTR
BIZOŃ



MAREK
BLAT



MICHAŁ
KWECIEŃ



WŁODZIMIERZ
STARKOWSKI



KRZYSZTOF
MOSZCZYŃSKI



3. NL HOK



ROALD
RAMER



BAS
DE BRUIN



LEO
VAN DE BROM



KEES
BAKKER



JOHN
LESMEISTER



GERT-JAN
ROS



FRANS
BORM



RODERIK
ORANJE



VICTOR
ORANJE

FINAL BULLETIN, Sat., February 10th.

Dear Friends

After two weeks the tournament is over. Competition had the spirit of 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

(player who played at least 112 boards, 50%)

0.92/112 B.Shenkin	SCOTLAND BLUE
0.79/126 B.Spears	SCOTLAND BLUE
0.74/224 M.Lair	USA SELIGMAN
0.74/154 M.Abecassis	FRANCE VINCIG.
0.74/154 M.Bompis	FRANCE VINCIG.
0.69/196 M.Seligman	USA SELIGMAN
0.64/112 J.-P.Derivaz	SWISS CHEESE
0.61/126 B. de Bruin	NL HOK
0.59/112 J.Krekorian	USA SIMSON
0.59/112 P.Weichsel	USA SIMSON
0.58/140 R.Franzel	AUSTRIA
0.58/140 S.Teraneo	AUSTRIA
0.56/112 W.Gosschalk	NL SENIORS
0.56/112 W. van Eijck	NL SENIORS
0.52/112 D.Schaltz	DENMARK
0.52/112 P.Schaltz	DENMARK
0.48/210 P.Bizoń	POLAND 1
0.48/210 M.Blat	POLAND 1
0.46/112 J.-M.Backes	BELGIUM
0.46/112 Z.Engel	BELGIUM

IRONMAN

There were some players who played ALL the 224 boards of the tournament:

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

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	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KQ983 ♥ QJ ♦ J109 ♣ 954
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 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 ♥4 for the jack and king and declarer cashed five clubs and exited with the ♦K, the defenders taking the rest, -100.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
4♠	all pass	2♠	dbld

South led the ♣A and switched to the ♥10, declarer winning with the ♥Q and running the ♦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♠, but South exited with the ♥9 and declarer discarded a club on dummy's ♥A, cashed the ♠A and then ran the ♠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 ♠10, cash the ♠A and then play a spade to the nine.

Board 3 South/EW	♠ J108764 ♥ 82 ♦ 6 ♣ J942										
♠ AKQ ♥ Q9654 ♦ J1087 ♣ 10	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 3 ♥ KJ1073 ♦ AK3 ♣ KQ73
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 952 ♥ A ♦ Q9542 ♣ A865										

Open Room

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

4NT RKCB

Pass '0, I hope'

East led the ♥3 and declarer won performe with dummy's ace and played the ♦2, West winning with the ♦7, cashing the king, ace and queen of spades and exiting with the ♣10 which meant the contract was four down, -800.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
1♥	2♠	3♠*	pass
dbld	pass	4NT*	4♠
5♣*	pass	5♥	pass
			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.

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Board 4 West/All	♠ AJ986 ♥ A ♦ K102 ♣ 8654		♠ K1053 ♥ J742 ♦ Q65 ♣ A10									
♠ Q74 ♥ 10953 ♦ J9 ♣ Q972	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 2 ♥ KQ86 ♦ A8743 ♣ KJ3											

Open Room

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

2♣ 2+♣

West led the ♥5 to dummy's ace and declarer cashed the ♦K and then ran the ten, West winning with the jack and switching to the ♠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	1 ♠	pass	2 ♦
pass	3 ♦	pass	3 ♥
pass	3 ♠	pass	3NT
all pass			

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

Board 9 North/EW	♠ AQJ8 ♥ 98643 ♦ A ♣ AJ9		♠ 104 ♥ J ♦ KJ103 ♣ 1086532									
♠ K97 ♥ KQ10752 ♦ 52 ♣ KQ	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 6532 ♥ A ♦ Q98764 ♣ 74											

Open Room

W	N	E	S
Berger	Starkowski	Zelnik	Kwiecień
pass	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 ♥K and declarer won, played a spade to the queen, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a heart as East pitched the ♠10. A spade to the jack saw East ruff and switch to the ♣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	N	E	S
Blat	Feichtinger	Bizoń	F.Terraneo
	1NT	pass	2 ♣
2 ♥	dbl	pass	2 ♠
pass	4 ♠	all pass	

West led the ♥K and having won declarer played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a heart (East pitching the ♣2) ruffed a diamond and played a heart, discarding the ♣4 when East ruffed with the ♠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 ♠A, added up to 10 tricks, +420 and 7 IMPs.

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Board 10 East/All	♠ 74 ♥ Q2 ♦ Q105 ♣ KJ8654										
♠ A863 ♥ 10964 ♦ A4 ♣ A72	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K1092 ♥ 753 ♦ 8762 ♣ 103
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ QJ5 ♥ AKJ8 ♦ KJ93 ♣ Q9										

Open Room

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

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

West led the ♠6 and declarer won the third round of the suit and played the ♣Q, followed by the ♦3. West took his tricks at that point, one down, -100.

Closed Room

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

On this unrevealing auction West led the ♥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	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 3 ♥ KQ62 ♦ J4 ♣ 1097432
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ A2 ♥ AJ54 ♦ A109872 ♣ A										

Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
			1♦
pass	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	2NT*	pass	3♦
pass	4♣*	pass	4♥*
pass	4♠*	pass	4NT*
pass	5♣*	pass	5♥*
pass	6♦*	all pass	

2NT Game forcing

4♣ Cue

4♥ Cue

4♠ Cue

4NT RKCB

5♣ 1 keycard

5♥ ♦Q?

6♦ ♦Q + 2 kings

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

I don't think you would mind being in 7♦, would you?

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
			1♣*
pass	1♠*	pass	2♦
pass	3♠	pass	3♥
pass	4♦	pass	6♦
all pass			

1♣ Strong

1♠ 3 controls

West led the ♣Q and having won declarer cashed the ♦A and the ♠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'.

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Board 12 West/NS	♠ A873 ♥ QJ108 ♦ 8 ♣ 10854				
♠ Q42 ♥ K4 ♦ KJ7642 ♣ KJ	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 6 ♥ 753 ♦ AQ9 ♣ AQ9762
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ KJ1095 ♥ A962 ♦ 1053 ♣ 3				

Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
1♦	pass	2♣*	pass
2♦	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 ♦Q?

North led the ♥Q and South took the ace and returned the ♥2 (not easy to see that a club switch is a killer) declarer winning with the king, cashing the ♦J, crossing to dummy with the ♦Q and playing a club to the king, followed by the ♣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 ♠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♦	pass	2♣	2♠
pass	4♠	5♦	all pass

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

Board 13 North/All	♠ – ♥ AQ1096 ♦ KQJ84 ♣ A82				
♠ 842 ♥ J843 ♦ 105 ♣ K953	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ KQ97653 ♥ 7 ♦ A976 ♣ 10
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ AJ10 ♥ K52 ♦ 32 ♣ QJ764				

Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
	1♥	4♠	dbler
pass	6♦	pass	6♥
all pass			

East led the ♣10 and when dummy's queen held declarer played a diamond for the five, queen and ace. East returned the ♦6 to the ten and king, and declarer cashed the ♥A, played a heart to dummy's king, pitched a club on the ♠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 ♥K.

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
	1♦	1♠	3NT
pass	4♥	all pass	

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.

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Board 14 East/None	♠ K7 ♥ A ♦ K1032 ♣ 1096543	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ AQJ103 ♥ J53 ♦ A965 ♣ J
N						
W E						
S						
♠ 84 ♥ 1098762 ♦ QJ87 ♣ Q	♠ 9652 ♥ KQ4 ♦ 4 ♣ AK872					

Open Room

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

1♠ 11-16, 4+♠, canapé possible

2♦ 'Both ways possible'

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

Closed Room

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

West led the ♠4 and declarer was down before he had started, East scoring two spades and the ♦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 1NT South overcalled 3♠ with ♠AJ108752 ♥J3 ♦10 ♣QJ5.

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

It meant a couple of overtrick IMPs for Austria.

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Board 2 East/NS	♠ J ♥ QJ964 ♦ 654 ♣ K753				
♠ A97652 ♥ K107 ♦ K97 ♣ 9	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K10843 ♥ 83 ♦ J108 ♣ QJ4
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ Q ♥ A52 ♦ AQ32 ♣ A10862				

Board 3 South/EW	♠ KJ9753 ♥ Q3 ♦ Q7 ♣ 764				
♠ A6 ♥ A9765 ♦ 96 ♣ K532	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ Q102 ♥ 2 ♦ K1054 ♣ AQ1098
N					
W E					
S					
	♠ 84 ♥ KJ1084 ♦ AJ832 ♣ J				

Open Room

W Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
		pass	1♣*
1♥*	2♥*	3♠	4♥
4♠	pass	pass	dble
all pass			

1♣ Polish Club

1♥ 4+♠

2♥ Non forcing

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

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
		pass	1NT
2♦*	2♥	pass	3♥
pass	pass	3♠	all pass

2♦ 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 Berger	N Starkowski	E Zelnik	S Kwiecień
		dble	1♥
pass	1♠	pass	2♦
2♥*	dble*	pass	pass
3♣	all pass		

2♥ 'Good hand'

Dble Heart honour

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

Closed Room

W Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
		dble	pass
1♥	1♠	pass	pass
2♣	pass	2♠	3♦
pass	pass	3NT	all pass

South led the ♠8 and North won with the king and switched to the ♦Q for the king and ace. When South continued with the ♥K, declarer took dummy's ace, but North fatally held on to the ♥Q. The ♦9 lost to South's jack, and when he continued with the ♥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.

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Board 6 East/EW	♠ Q3 ♥ Q932 ♦ J10962 ♣ K5					
♠ 64 ♥ 654 ♦ 754 ♣ QJ963	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K95 ♥ AJ10 ♦ AKQ8 ♣ A74	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ AJ10872 ♥ K87 ♦ 3 ♣ 1082					

Open Room

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

1 ♣ 16+

South led the ♠J (some pairs play that the lead of the ten indicates a strong holding headed by the ♠KJ or ♠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 ♣8 and then the ♣2. The convention card says, 'Smith Peter v NT (low positive)' and when North switched to the ♦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 Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
		2NT*	all pass

2NT 20-21

South led the ♠J for the queen and king and declarer cashed two diamonds and then cut adrift with the ♠9, South taking two tricks in the suit and then switching to the ♥7 for the queen and ace. South took the ♥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.

Board 13 North/NS	♠ 864 ♥ A974 ♦ Q3 ♣ KJ87					
♠ 972 ♥ J852 ♦ 108 ♣ AQ94	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ KQJ53 ♥ KQ6 ♦ A4 ♣ 652	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ A10 ♥ 103 ♦ KJ97652 ♣ 103					

Open Room

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

South led the ♦7 and declarer took North's queen with the ace and played the ♠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 Blat	N Feichtinger	E Bizoń	S F.Terraneo
	pass	1NT	all pass

South led the ♥10 and declarer won with the ♥K and played the ♠K, South taking the ace and continuing with the ♥3. Declarer won with the ♥Q, cashed the ♠Q 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!

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:

Board 11/IV South/None	♠ Q1082 ♥ QJ4 ♦ AQ1053 ♣ 2	
♠ A96 ♥ 9532 ♦ 7 ♣ QJ1094	N W E S	♠ KJ43 ♥ K107 ♦ K98 ♣ 863
	♠ 75 ♥ A86 ♦ J642 ♣ AK75	

After an uncontested bidding NS pair got to 3NT. West led ♣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 ♥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:

Board 12/IV West/NS	♠ AQ8 ♥ – ♦ KQJ5432 ♣ 1073	
♠ 54 ♥ AQJ84 ♦ 10987 ♣ J5	N W E S	♠ KJ107 ♥ K1095 ♦ 6 ♣ AK84
	♠ 9632 ♥ 7632 ♦ A ♣ Q962	

Canada-Kokish v Sweden

W	N	E	S
Elmroth	Silver	Eliasson	Carruthers
2♥	3♦	4♦	dbld
4♥	5♦	dbld	all pass

Should the double of 4♦ 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:

Board 4/V West/Both	♠ AK6 ♥ 76 ♦ KQ10752 ♣ 97	
♠ 92 ♥ 82 ♦ 984 ♣ AK8432	N W E S	♠ 108543 ♥ J10953 ♦ – ♣ J65
	♠ QJ7 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ AJ63 ♣ Q10	

England-Pryor v Romania Bucharest

W	N	E	S
Kendrick	Urseanu	Ward	Savin
3♣	3♦	5♣	6♦
all pass			

Based on opponents' bidding, South could expect his partner to have short diamonds. The decision to 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	N	E	S
pass	pass	pass	1♥
pass	2♣*	pass	2♦*
pass	2♥	pass	pass
?			

2♣ – Drury,

2♦ – 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		
♠ 86	♠ J743	
♥ Q6	♥ K983	
♦ Q1094	♦ A5	
♣ AQ862	♣ J103	
		♠ KQ109
		♥ 72
		♦ J863
		♣ K95
		♠ A52
		♥ AJ1054
		♦ K72
		♣ 74

Belgium v Sweden

W	N	E	S
Olofsson	Coenraets	Finnsson	Bigdeli
pass	pass	pass	1♥
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
2NT	2♥	pass	pass
all pass	pass	3♦	3♥

Faramarz Bigdeli for Belgium bid 3♥. Then he decided to finesse against ♥Q in East's hand, taking into account West's action in bidding. The other table played 2♥ 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.

Board 3/VI South/EW		
♠ 9		
♥ Q10973		
♦ AK82		
♣ 852		
♠ K10		♠ AQ8763
♥ A52		♥ KJ6
♦ 53		♦ 1076
♣ K109743		♣ J
		♠ J542
		♥ 84
		♦ QJ94
		♣ AQ6

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

2♥ – hearts and minor,

3♣ – pass or correct.

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

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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 $\spadesuit 10$. Successful finesse gave him 9 tricks and 13 IMPs (the other table was in $4\spadesuit$ 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	\spadesuit J108764 \heartsuit 82 \diamond 6 \clubsuit J942										
\spadesuit AKQ \heartsuit Q9654 \diamond J1087 \clubsuit 10	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		\spadesuit 3 \heartsuit KJ1073 \diamond AK3 \clubsuit KQ73
N											
W	E										
	S										
	\spadesuit 952 \heartsuit A \diamond Q9542 \clubsuit A865										

W Engel	N Lucassen	E Backès	S Walker
			pass
$1\heartsuit$	$2\spadesuit$	$3\spadesuit$	$4\spadesuit$
dbld	pass	$4NT$	pass
$5\clubsuit$	pass	$5\heartsuit$	all pass

Most tables finished the bidding in $5\heartsuit$ after their opponents wanted to play $4\spadesuit$. 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).

Board 6/VII East/EW	\spadesuit 32 \heartsuit – \diamond Q107 \clubsuit J10976532										
\spadesuit 854 \heartsuit K1072 \diamond J965 \clubsuit A8	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		\spadesuit KQ109 \heartsuit J86543 \diamond A3 \clubsuit K
N											
W	E										
	S										
	\spadesuit AJ76 \heartsuit AQ9 \diamond K842 \clubsuit Q4										

W	N	E	S
		$1\heartsuit$	$1NT$
$3\heartsuit$	$5\clubsuit$	all pass	

After the bidding as above or after some similar sequence most of the field played $5\clubsuit$. 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 $\spadesuit K$ to the ace, spade discard on dummy's $\heartsuit A$ and $\clubsuit Q$... Taking the third trick with $\clubsuit A$ 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 $5\clubsuit$ or $3NT$ but only if played by North. One of the pairs didn't get into the bidding and took +50 by beating opponents' $2\diamond$. The other table got to $5\clubsuit$ 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 occurred 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		♠ Q87	
♥ KQ962		♥ 10543	
♦ 63		♦ Q1075	
♣ 9		♣ 83	
	♠ 653		
	♥ J7		
	♦ 94		
	♣ AK7642		

NL Hok v England Pryor

Open Room

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

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
de Bruin	Sowter	Ramer	Robinson
1♠	dbler	2♠	4♣
pass	6♣	all pass	

NL Hok v England Pryor

Open Room

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

2♣ – preemptive with both majors or strong.

Closed Room

W	N	E	S
Efraimsson	Coenraets	Morath	Bigdeli
1♠	dbler	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 „BRYDŹ”

I am not only editor of this bulletin, but also editor of the oldest Polish bridge magazine (est. 1956) „Brydź”. 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