



Information Bulletin

Editors: Mark Horton, Marek Wójcicki

Warsaw, August 11, 2006

Opening Bulletin



From the President of the Polish Bridge Union

With great pleasure and honor I welcome you to the "48th Prokom Software European Team Bridge Championship". It is a particular pleasure for me since the Polish Bridge Union has organized this prestigious event only once before in 1966. Forty years ago Poland was a completely different country in almost everything. One particular thing has not changed, and I am sure it will never change. It is our passion for bridge. The game is played throughout Poland since it has all the fundamental components required for a true sport, being really competitive and giving true emotions.

As one of the many people who worked to organize this event I would like to assure you that we have done our best to ensure the proper conditions for players, spectators, journalists who will come to be part of this Championship. I also hope that apart from the playing areas you will also find time to enjoy all events concerned with the Championship and our wonderful city – Warsaw.

I would like to thank the President of the Republic of Poland Mr. Lech Kaczynski for taking the Honorary Patronage of the Championship. It is a great honor for our all bridge family.

Today one cannot imagine organizing any big sport tournament without the support of local Authorities and sponsors. I would like to thank the Minister of Sport Mr. Tomasz Lipiec and the Mayor of Warsaw Mr. Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz for their interest and generous financial support. Special thanks must also go to the Chairman of the Honorary Committee, President of "Prokom Software SA" Mr Ryszard Krauze. The Company and Mr. Krauze himself have been great partners and friends of Polish Bridge and our cooperation has been very fruitful. Thanks to a special program the Polish juniors have been the European and World Champions for the last few years.

I am also very grateful to all other Companies, their Presidents and employees who have helped us to organize this Championship in a significant way. I am sure you will notice their great effort during the coming 2 weeks.

But now time for sport. Let me invite you to the tables. I wish you your best play ever and great success in the competitions. May all of you have a stay worth remembering for the rest of your lives.

Radoslaw Kielbasinski



Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will take place at the premises of the Polish Olympic Committee (PKOL) at the Wybrzeze Gdynskie st.4 at 19.00. All the invited guests (players, officials and journalists) will have free transportation (by MPTTaxi – 9191) to and from the PKOL. The taxis will be waiting in front of the "Intercontinental" hotel between 18.00–18.30 and will take 3 people in a cab. The whole process will be coordinated by the hospitality staff. (The guests at the SAS Radisson hotel will have their own Taxis at 18.15). Guests staying in other hotels should come to the "Intercontinental" or go on their own (the normal rate should not exceed 30 PLN and take some 15–20 minutes).

The program

19.00 – Official Part and Presentation of participating Teams
19.45 – Piano Concert by the Malicki Group
20.30 – Buffet in the hall.

Taxis will start coming back at about 21.30 till the last guests decide to leave.

In accordance with the principles of the Olympic movement and the regulations governing sporting contests in Poland no alcoholic beverages will be served following the opening ceremony.

Yesteryear

In 1966 Warsaw played host to the European Championships – France won. 15 years later in 1981 Poland won the title in the first time at Birmingham. Now, after an interval of 40 years, the Championships return to the Polish capital.

Whilst a Polish victory cannot be guaranteed, on home ground our hosts will be hard to beat and should at the very least secure a place in next year's Bermuda Bowl.

Searching back issues of *Bridge Magazine* for deals from 1966 & 1981 that involved the Polish players I found a few that are perhaps worth reproducing, although in the first two they play only a supporting role.

The first involves one of the great European Champions, Rixi Markus. The deal was from the match between Poland & Great Britain in 1966:

Dealer East. East/West Vul						
	♠ 10 8 3 2					
	♥ J 8 3					
	♦ Q 9 2					
	♣ 10 4 2					
♠ A Q 7 6	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K J 9 5	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ A	♥ Q 7 4 2					
♦ A K 7 6 5 4	♦ 8					
♣ Q	♣ K J 6 5					
	♠ 4					
	♥ K 10 9 6 5					
	♦ J 10					
	♣ A 9 8 7 3					

After two passes West, Joan Durrant, opened with an Acol 2♦ and when East responded 2♠ it was easy enough to arrive in 6♠, a contract that made in some comfort.

At the other table West also opened 2♦ and once again that was followed by 2♠ – only this time it was North, Mrs. Markus, who made the bid!

When East bid 2NT the possibility of playing in spades was lost and Great Britain gained a useful swing.

In Birmingham Poland finished as Champions, clear of Great Britain, who finished second. This deal featured a brilliant defence by Robert Sheehan.

Dealer East. East/West Vul						
	♠ K 8 4 2					
	♥ K J 4 3					
	♦ 10 6 4					
	♣ Q 2					
♠ Q J 7 6 3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 10 9	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 9 7 5	♥ Q 8 6					
♦ 8 5	♦ K Q 9 7 3					
♣ J 9 4	♣ A 10 8					
	♠ A 5					
	♥ A 10 5					
	♦ A J 2					
	♣ K 7 6 5 3					

W	N	E	S
Rose	Kudla	Sheehan	Milde
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦ ¹	Dbl	3♣
Pass	3♦ ²	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

¹ Forcing Stayman, ² asking for stopper

West led the eight of diamonds and Sheehan played low, allowing South to win with the jack. When declarer played a club to the queen Sheehan ducked without a care in the world. Declarer, naturally placing the ace of clubs on his left now ducked a club and West won and played his remaining diamond. Declarer ducked, won the next diamond and played a third club. When it was East who produced the ace the contract was one down.

In the other room West led a spade and according to the late Terence Reese, writing in *Bridge Magazine*, the contract was easily made.

This deal shows the skills of one of Poland's champions:

Dealer South. None Vul						
	♠ 8 5 3 2					
	♥ A K J 9 5					
	♦ K 5					
	♣ 6 4					
♠ A K J	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9 6 4	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 10 7 2	♥ Q 8 4					
♦ J 8 7	♦ 10 6 4 3					
♣ 10 9 5 3	♣ K Q 2					
	♠ Q 10 7					
	♥ 6 3					
	♦ A Q 9 2					
	♣ A J 8 7					

W	N	E	S
	Klukowski		Jeziro
			1♣ ¹
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

¹ Polish club – natural 12–18 PC, balanced 12–15 PC, or strong – 19–22 PC, any distribution

Aleksander Jeziro found himself at the helm in a thin game. West led the ace of spades and when East followed with the four he switched to the ten of clubs on which East played the queen. It looks as if declarer needs to find West with three hearts to the queen, providing five heart tricks, but declarer thought there was no need to rush, as the spades appeared to be 5-1 and the ♣KQ were probably on his right. So he ducked the club and was concerned to see East produce the six of spades. However, he survived that hurdle when the suit proved to be divided 3-3. When West switched to a heart declarer won with the king and played a club to the jack and cashed the ace of clubs, felling East's king. He went to dummy with the king of diamonds and with the heart finesse still in reserve cashed the long spade. East unhappily discarded a diamond, so now declarer could score up his game – and with only two tricks from dummy's formidable suit.

40 Years Ago

Warsaw was a host city of the European Teams in 1966. The tournament was held at the same venue as now – at the Palace of Culture and Science... Warsaw could admire the top players from the whole of Europe... It is enough to look at the names of the champions:

The Women's series (11 teams) was won by England – J.Juan, J.Durran, B.Trevor-Harris, R.Markus, F.Gordon and D.Shanahan. They were followed by France and Italy.

The Open series (17 teams) was dominated by France – H.Svarc, J.M.Boulanger, L.Tintner, J.Stetten, J.M.Roudinesco and J.Pariante. The Netherlands were second, Norway third.

Even more legendary players were part of the other teams – it is enough to mention some of them – d'Alelio, Pabis-Ticci, Kreyms, Slavenburg, Harrison-Gray...

Who from the forthcoming championships will reach the bridge Olympus? This question will be solved by journalists in the next 40 years. I hope that we will see many hands, and many coups which will pass into the history of our game.

Good old times...

Nowadays all organizers of such events start by looking at sponsors... It is probably the most difficult part of their job. Things were different in Poland 40 years ago – the budget of the championships was calculated as 660,000 zloty. 500,000 (76%!) of it was covered by a government donation. The rest had to be found by the organizing committee – from publicity, selling souvenirs, etc.

We can only dream of such governmental support today, but it was not the end of it.

On a free day all the participants went for an excursion to Żelazowa Wola – birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin where a concert played by Richard Bakst – one of the most famous Polish pianists was arranged. Times are changing but the Polish passion both for bridge and music has remained untouched. You will see it during various events associated with the Championship.

Polish teams

The Polish Women's team, coached by one of the best Polish theorists and players – Zbigniew Szurig, did very well during these championships, finishing at the least liked – 4th place, only one VP behind the third placed team, Italy. Here is an example of their style from a match against the Italians:

Alicja Petri played 6♠ (South bid hearts on the first round of the auction).

Board No 16

Petri
 ♠ A K 10 9 6 2
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ Q 8 7
 ♣ A 2

♠ J 8
 ♥ A J 10 9 4
 ♦ A 10
 ♣ K Q 4 3

East led a small heart which was ruffed by West, who played a small club at trick 2. Petri took the trick on the table and decided to finesse the trump queen. It was the only way to make the contract, as the full deal was as follows:

Board No 16

Petri
 ♠ A K 10 9 6 2
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ Q 8 7
 ♣ A 2

♠ Q 7 5 4
 ♥ —
 ♦ K 6 5 4 3
 ♣ J 8 7 5

N
W **E**
S

♠ 3
 ♥ Q 8 7 5 3 2
 ♦ J 9 2
 ♣ 10 9 6

♠ J 8
 ♥ A J 10 9 4
 ♦ A 10
 ♣ K Q 4 3

Petri explained that her decision was based on the lack of a Lightner double from West – it could be explained only by trying to preserve a trump trick... As we can see, it was the right clue...

The Polish open team was assisted by an unusual dose of luck at the start. Look at their very first hand of the championships:

Match Poland – Ireland:

Board No 1

Nowak
 ♠ 7
 ♥ A Q 10 7 5 3
 ♦ 10 5 2
 ♣ A K J

♠ 9 6 4 2
 ♥ K J
 ♦ 9 7 4
 ♣ 8 6 4 3

N
W **E**
S

♠ K 10 5
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ K 8 6 3
 ♣ Q 9 7 5

Tyszkiewicz
 ♠ A Q J 8 3
 ♥ 8 4 2
 ♦ A Q J
 ♣ 10 2

The Irish pair sitting NS in the closed room stopped in game. The Polish pair in the open room bid 7♥ and, due to the good location of the missing kings, made it without any problem. Probably over the following boards the luck changed, as Ireland won the match 5-3. Subsequent matches were also not too fortunate and the Polish team finished in 10th place.

This year we hope to see all the Polish teams at the top – the women showed at Verona, where they reached the quarterfinal, that they should be treated with respect. The Senior team, slightly different from the one playing here, won the championships at Verona, and our open team is always one of the favourites. We wish they get at least the same luck in our capital as on that first board of 40 years ago!

Marek Wójcicki

DOBIERAMY ASY!



PROGRAMY INWESTYCYJNO-OSZCZĘDNOŚCIOWE OPARTE NA IDEI LOKOWANIA W FUNDUSZE

- Najlepsze fundusze polskiego rynku.
- Dostęp do funduszy zagranicznych znanych marek o światowej renomie.
- Bieżąca analiza i coroczna ocena oferowanych funduszy.