



2008

ORGANISERS:

Vytautas Vainikonis



SPONSORS:



35th INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FESTIVAL

DAILY BULLETIN

Editor: Marek Wójcicki

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Dear bridge Friends

It is the 35-th time as the capital of Lithuania hosts the top players from many countries, doming to compete for the Vilnius Cup 2008. I am very glad that the number of participating players grows each year, as does the prestige of our competition. This year players from five continents will compete here – this is the proof of it.

The format of the festival was altered this year to include the Junior Cup – tournament of invited junior teams - added to our usual events. This is the first step forward – next year during the festival we will carry on also the bridge games of small National Bridge Organizations. We hope it will put our event into a new dimension. This year's festival is the test for us – organizers; it will show whether we can face the challenge.

We hope that due to our efforts, and a substantial support of the numerous sponsors and volunteers all participants will be satisfied with the organization and the beautiful venue of the festival.

Vilnius has been nominated as the next year's European Capital of Culture. I would like to encourage all guests to visit the most interesting places of the city.

I wish good luck and much fun for everybody.

Vytautas Vainikonis
Organizing Committee Chairman

PROGRAM FOR TODAY

17.00 Invitation Cup, part I
17.00 Junior Teams, part I

Bridge Base Online transmission

17.00 Invitation Cup – table one (barometer)

IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS

LOCAL TIME

Everybody should remember, that the local time in Lithuania is one hour earlier than in Warsaw, it is Eastern European Summer Time here – what is equal to UTC/GMT +3 hours

So please be careful enough to check your watch time!

At least, try to be on place one hour earlier than you think you should be ☺

CITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR

According to *vox populi*, the sightseeing tour of Vilnius has been organized. The tour will start on Saturday, at 12.30, at the Le Meridien Villon. There will be two groups – one with English speaking guide, and another one with Polish speaking guide.

Everyone who would like to take the part in the trip should contact Erikas Vainikonis, not later than on Saturday, 10.00.

The part of trip is the lunch at the restaurant with the panoramic view of the city.

The cost of the trip is 35 LTL, or 10 euros.

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Because of the trip, the schedule of the play has been changed to make the Saturday noon pause on Saturday longer. One round of the team tournament has been transferred to Sunday. Also starting time on Saturday and Sunday is one hour earlier!

Actual schedule for Saturday and Sunday:

Saturday	
8.30	Open Teams, registration deadline
9.00	Open Teams, rounds I-III
12.30	Trip to Vilnius
17.00	Open Pairs, sessions IV-VI
21.30	Party at Casino Olympic
Sunday	
9.00	Open Teams, rounds IV-IX
16.30	Prize giving ceremony

NO SMOKING REGULATIONS

Smoking is strictly forbidden besides the smoking area. Smoking areas will be prepared and well signed at the playing venue.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

On Saturday night, after Open Pairs, the players are invited to Casino Olympic. The poker tournament – Texas Hold'em – will be carried on, and the other casino games – roulette, black jack, etc., will be available.

The shuffle to the casino will go from Meridien Villon after the last boards of Open Pairs tournament, at about 21.30

BEST HANDS COMPETITION

There will be the prizes for the:

- best bid played hand of the competition
- best played hand of the competition
- best defended hand of the competition

The prize will be one year subscription of the oldest Polish bridge magazine (published since 1957) – “**Brydż**”

The entries should be delivered to the editor of the bulletin or to the tournament directors.

The choice of the winners will be made according to the artistic value of single the entry, assessed by the anonymous jury.

No prize can be awarded in any category if there will be no entry of appropriate level.

NEW LAWS

During the congress, the latest adopted changes in the bridge law will be in force. Here a few most important changes are pointed:

In Shanghai October 2007 the WBF has adopted new laws. In most European countries these new laws will be implemented in August/September this year. It makes it worth to pay some attention to the changes. This article deals with some changes that are important for the players.

The dummy has to put his cards on the table in columns lengthwise and in descending order towards declarer. No other way is allowed.

Players should put their played cards in a won or lost position in an orderly row. When a player puts such card in the wrong position his partner is allowed to notify him until the lead is made to the next trick. When this is done too late it creates unauthorized information which might result in an adjusted score.

Defenders may (again) ask each other about a possible revoke in the current trick. Only unintended calls may be changed up till the next call from partner. A call made as a result of a slip of the mind may not be

changed anymore. All players are entitled to try to prevent an irregularity made by one of the other players. Up till now only the dummy had that right and only towards his own partner/declarer.

A pair that has agreed with a claim made by one of its opponents and later discovers that it likely would have won an extra trick will be rewarded that trick (within the given protest time).

A defender should not make a claim when the success of it depends on his partner's cooperation of playing a card from alternative (normal) choices. If play continues after a claim (which is not allowed in the laws), evidence appearing in that continuation may be used by the TD to decide the result on the board.

When adjusting a score the TD strives for equitable results, which often will be accomplished by assigning a weighted score, taking into account the probabilities of several reasonable outcomes. This is already common procedure in championships but is now in detail

described in the laws.

A major change relates to insufficient bids. From now on an insufficient bid may be replaced by a call which describes hands that were also described by the insufficient bid. Above that we remain the possibility to replace a natural insufficient bid by a natural bid in the same suit on the lowest legal level.

We need a couple of examples to make clear what is meant.

1S - 1H overcall If 1H was meant to show 4+ hearts and 2H in the system shows hearts as well the auction continues normally. Though X in most cases also shows hearts it normally doesn't promise 4 hearts by agreement and if 1H shows 5 or more cards in that suit even a guaranteed 4 card hearts with a double does not describe a hand included in the 1H-bid.

1C-1S-1H The TD finds out that the 1H was meant as a natural answer on 1C without noticing the overcall of 1S. If this pair uses a negative double showing a 4-card hearts that double allows the auction to be continued normally. The replacement by 2H is allowed if 2H is natural. This even makes it possible to make a distinction between a 4-card suit or a longer one.

It is important to understand that not only the suits shown have to be considered but also the strength when using the first criterion. In the second example the double shows at least the strength of the insufficient 1H answer.

Once in a while a bid doesn't show anything, which then means that being

insufficient it may be replaced by any legal call.

1NT-pass-2H-3C

2S

The TD finds out that the 1NT-opener did not see the 3Cbid. If this pair has an automatic 2S answer on the 2H transfer any legal call as a replacement is permitted. For example 3S, though it does not comply with the other criterion, the call of 2S not being natural.

The law has become more severe towards a player who tries to solve the irregularity himself, by a replacement call. If his LHO does not accept the insufficient bid the substitution (if legal) stands and the TD has to decide whether this bars partner or not.

Another major change concerns the penalty for a revoke. It becomes one trick unless the player won the trick in which he revoked (ruffed it when able to follow suit) in which case the penalty remains 2 tricks (of course under the assumption that the revoking side won at least 2 tricks from the revoking trick onwards). This means that the TD more often than in the past has to adjust the score if a 1 trick penalty does not offer sufficient compensation for the damage created by the revoke.

NBO's get a wider opportunity to restrict the use of partnership understandings. They may appoint special understandings on the basis of opponents not being familiar with those and then forbid the use. They also may restrict the use of artificial psychic calls.

There is a normal protest time regarding TD's dealing with irregularities. But in case of a scoring error a regulation may allow the TD in cooperation with the tournament organizer to correct it even later.

From now on players should shuffle their hand before putting it back in the

board. Not shuffling can create useful information about the order in which the cards were played.

We have introduced a clarification period, the time between the final pass in the auction and the first lead being faced up. That is the time for future declarer and dummy to inform their opponents about wrong explanations given and both are

allowed to consult their system card for it.

Once in a while it happens that a board can't be played through a fault by a player. When in a teams event the innocent side at the other table obtained a good score already the TD may take that into account when deciding the adjusted score.

Ton Kooijman

TOUGH FIGHT

At the end of the last year teams tournament, two teams were tied for the first place – **Garsu Pasaulis** (Vainikonis, Olański, Chmurski, Gawrys), and **Vuerst** (Pedak, Martens, Karpov, Trishkin).

How did it happen?

Two rounds before the end, the two teams had substantial advantage over the field, with small advantage of the Vuerst. But the tournament was not over yet. At the one before the last round, the leaders met together. Match was tied (in imps – 16-15 for Vuerst). And then arrived the final round:

At the very first board of the match, Vuerst made successful use of their aggressive system tools:

In the open room Estonian pair made opponent's life very hard:
(the diagram is on the right side, at the top)

W	N	E	S
Gawrys	Karpov	Chmurski	Trishkin
	2♣ ¹⁾	pass	4♦ ²⁾
dbl.	4♥	4NT	dbl.
5♦	pass	pass	dbl.

pass...

¹⁾weak hand with both major suits, at least

5-4

²⁾"show your longer major"

9 tricks, 500 for NS

Maybe Chmurski should pass after 4♥, but he knew the great fit... He had also some distribution, and not so much losers... We can disagree with his decision to bid, but sometimes it could be paid well...

Board 1.

WE vulnerable, NS not. Dealer North.

N		E	
♠ 98654		♠ K2	
♥ KJ653		♥ 92	
♦ J5		♦ Q962	
♣ 5		♣ AJ942	
W		S	
♠ QJ3		♠ A107	
♥ Q10		♥ A874	
♦ AK10743		♦ 8	
♣ 83		♣ KQ1076	

Closed room:

W	N	E	S
Martens	Vainikonis	Pedak	Olański
	pas	pas	1♣
1♦	dbl.	2♦	3♥

pass...

9 tricks, 140 for NS, 8 imps to Vuerst

Here NS pair has bid in a more polite way... And the opponents did not push to 4♦, probably being afraid that the game can be made.

The lead of the Vuerst became substantial...

But then came the next board:

Board 2.

Both vulnerable. Dealer East.

		N		
		♠ AK		
		♥ KQ1032		
		♦ 987		
		♣ J74		
W			E	
♠ J87			♠ 9543	
♥ AJ54			♥ 6	
♦ J4			♦ KQ32	
♣ 10853			♣ KQ62	
		S		
		♠ Q1062		
		♥ 987		
		♦ A1065		
		♣ A9		

The hand did not promise great emotions to the kibitzers, but in the heat of the last round everything is possible:

Open room:

W	N	E	S
Gawrys	Karpov	Chmurski	Trishkin
pass	1♥	pass	pass
pass	2♥	pass...	2♣ ¹⁾
1) Drury			
10 tricks, 170 for NS			

Here the EW players were probably tired after previous board and did not enter the bidding.

But the second pair of Vuerst try to get the "braveheart" mark at this board:

Closed room:

W	N	E	S
Martens	Vainikonis	Pedak	Olański
Pass	1♥	pass	pass
1♠	1NT	dbl.	rdbl.
pas...		2♠	dbl.
5 tricks, 800 for NS. 12 imps for Garsu Pasaulis			

As we could see, the opponents were merciless...

After this board, Garsu Pasaulis has even up the number of VP with Vuerst. 4 remaining boards were flat and two fighting teams were tied for the first place

brydż

Subscription of "Brydż" – the oldest Polish bridge magazine (first issue – December 1957):

Abroad: 140 PLN (42 euros) yearly (11 issues) + 1 gratis

Poland: 70 PLN (21 euros) yearly (11 issues) + 1 gratis

Subscription can start from any issue, according to the order.

Payments should be made on the following account:

ING Bank Śląski 46 1050 1445 1000 0023 2254 7817 SWIFT: INGB PL PW