



## 2<sup>nd</sup> TRANSATLANTIC SENIORS CUP

Julian Klukowski Memorial Trophy

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 2022, BBO



### INVITATION (*CORRECTED START DAY*)

At the beginning of 2021 Polish Bridge Union together with Canadian Bridge Federation organized a competition for the national seniors' teams - **Transatlantic Seniors Cup**. The tournament was played online, on Bridge Base Online. 38 teams from five continents participated. We have played *Qualification Swiss* and later *playoffs*. Together with *playoffs Swiss for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place* was played for the teams which did not qualify to the playoff. Teams eliminated from the playoff also joined 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Swiss. [Here you can find details of the 1st edition](#). As there was very positive feedback from the participants we have decided to organize the second edition of the tournament in the end of January and first half of February 2022.

We are convinced that the tournament will be a perfect training opportunity before the new season, with numerous championships events scheduled. We hope to be able to play those events *face to face*.

A few necessary preliminary information:

1. TOURNAMENT NAME: *2nd PBU&CBF Transatlantic Seniors Cup. Julian Klukowski Memorial* (great Polish player, long time No1 world senior ranking list).
2. Tournament will be played on the Bridge Base Online platform.
3. TIME: from Monday, Jan. 24<sup>st</sup> till Friday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 (we do not play on any Saturday or Sunday).
4. TEAMS: only seniors (born in 1959 and earlier), national (membership of the appropriate National Bridge Organisation is necessary), teams should be submitted by NBO. Each NBO can submit 2 teams, USBF – 4 (due to the number of registered members), Canada and Poland 3-4 (depends on the number of registered teams).
5. ENTRIES: In entry sent to us (<mailto:transatlantic@pzbs.pl>) following data should be specified: names and BBO nicks of the players (at most 11 players in the team), e-mail to captain and e-mail to the person responsible for the line up. If some players would like to get Daily Bulletin by e-mail, their e-mail addresses should also be listed.
6. FORMAT: First stage (24.01-4.02.2022) is *Qualification Swiss* – 10 rounds 20 boards each; top 16 teams advance to the playoff. Those who did not qualify to the playoff continue in a *Swiss for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place*. Losers of the playoff also join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Swiss. So each team has the chance for the medal till the last board. Play-off matches (1/8, 1/4, and semifinal) will play 2x16 boards, final, 4x12 boards played in two days.
7. HOURS: In the first stage we will start at 8 pm CET (New York 2 pm, Los Angeles 11 am, Buenos Aires at 4 pm, Istanbul and Cape Town 9 pm) and we will play 20 boards. Play-off matches will start at 7 pm CET.
8. PRIZES: Victor Markowicz – former partner of Julian Klukowski has founded the *Julian Klukowski Trophy* for the winners *Transatlantic Seniors Cup*. The top three teams will be awarded the Polish Bridge Union medals.
9. ENTRY FEE: 250 € or 300 USD for the whole tournament.

We kindly invite all seniors to participate. The first event has shown that seniors can play online in a friendly atmosphere, fair play, and with a sportive spirit, which is very important in present, hard times. All questions and entries should be sent by e-mail to [transatlantic@pzbs.pl](mailto:transatlantic@pzbs.pl) till Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 2022. Then we will be sending details of registration and entry fee transfer. [The website of the tournament](#) is available and will be updated. When the number of participating teams is known, we will prepare all details.

*Marek Michałowski – President of the PBU*

*Kathie Macnab – President of CBF*

*Włodek Starkowski.*

*Marek Wójcicki.*

*Here you can read Mark Horton report on previous edition of the Transatlantic Seniors Cup:*

The event, organised by the Polish Bridge Union, was in memory of Julian Klukowski, one of their 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.

If my calculations are correct, no less than 32 World Champions took part in the Transatlantic Seniors Cup. Canadians Boris Baran & George Mittelman, Poland's Michał Kwiecień, Victor Markowicz, Apolinary Kowalski, Jacek Romanski, Włodek Starkowski & Marcin Lesniewski, Italy's Andrea Buratti, France's Alain Levy, Philippe Soulet, Philippe Cronier, Marc Bompis & Michel Bessis, the USA's Jeff Wolfson, David Berkowitz, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Mark Lair, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Hemant Lall, Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Michael Rosenberg, Peter Weichsel, Reese Milner, Mike Becker & Steve Garner, Sweden's Anders Morath, and England's Paul Hackett, John Holland & Gunnar Hallberg. That's a list that includes winners of the Bermuda Bowl, the Olympiad, the World Pairs Championship, the d'Orsi Trophy and many other events. If we were to add the names of the players who have won European and National titles and world championship medallists it would just about encompass the entire field.

In January 2000 the Bermuda Bowl celebrated its fiftieth anniversary by returning to its spiritual home in Bermuda. An exhibition event for Seniors was included, the six invited teams, Poland, France, China, Australia, North America and 'World Champions' contesting a double round-robin followed by a series of knock out matches. In the semifinals Poland

defeated North America 190-74, while France beat China 145-83. The final saw Poland score a convincing win over France, 229-73, while China won the third place play-off 133-80.

One year later when the World Championships were staged in Paris, the Senior Bowl became an official event. It was re-named the *d'Orsi Senior Bowl* in 2009 following the donation of a trophy by the former WBF President, Ernesto d'Orsi. It was in 2011 in Veldhoven that France won the trophy for the first time, Patrick Grenthe, Guy Lasserre, François Leenhardt, Patrice Piganeau, Philippe Poizat & Philippe Vanhoutte defeating the USA in the final.

The 2013 event in Bali, Indonesia was dramatic, as the original winners, Germany were subsequently disqualified when one of their pairs were found guilty of cheating making USA the champions. The 2019 event was staged in the now famous city of Wuhan.

The *World Seniors International Cup* was introduced for the first time in Maastricht, in 2000, alongside the World Teams Olympiad. (The event was notable for the fact that many of the local restaurants displayed signs in the window which read '*Bridge spoken here.*') 24 National Senior Teams participated, and the Cup was won by the team representing the USA. Robert (Bobby) Wolff was a member of the winning team and became the first player ever to win World Championships in five different events.

In 2012 when the event was staged in Lille, France, represented by Patrick Grenthe, Guy Lasserre, François Leenhardt, Patrice Piganeau, Philippe Poizat, Philippe Vanhoutte, Philippe Cronier (NPC), Solange D'Elbee (Coach) took the bronze medals. Four years later in Wroclaw, the team of Nicolas Dechelette, Pierre-Yves Guillaumin, Georges Iontzeff, Jean-Jacques Palau, Pierre Schmidt, Philippe Toffier, Eric Gautret (npc) went one better when they captured the silver medals.

According to the American Contract Bridge league, 25,000,000 Americans over 18 know how to play bridge, but its popularity has declined since the 1940s, when it was played in more than 40% percent of American homes. However, it continues to flourish, especially amongst senior citizens.

In September 2018 reporter Debora Almeida wrote that '*the average age of a competitive bridge player in the United States is 71.*' That simple statement goes a considerable way to explain the popularity of Senior Bridge events. Thanks to the efforts of stalwarts such as the late Nissan Rand, they now play a significant role in National, European and World Championship competitions. Other sports have readily embraced the concept of events for seniors, although there is no consensus about the appropriate age qualification. In golf, the PGA Tour Champions events are for players aged over 50, while the ITF Seniors Tennis tour caters for players aged 30 and over.

Chess is another mind sport that has embraced the concept of Senior competition, the individual World Championships having events in two different age categories, 50+ and 65+, with separate open and women-only tournaments. Whereas a number of open bridge world champions have also gained Senior World titles, only two former champions have gone on to capture the Senior chess titles, Vasily Smylov winning in 1991 while Nona Gaprindashvili is the only woman's world champion to secure the title.

It came as no surprise to see the powerful USA 3 Levine reach the final. There they would meet Turkey, who had won a breathtaking semifinal against Italy by a single IMP.

Turkey took an early lead and led 52-30 at half-way. USA closed the gap to 53-66 and the match remained close right until the end. This was the decisive deal:

Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ Q	
	♥ AK98763	
	♦ 104	
	♣ 764	
♠ K106	N	♠ AJ953
♥ Q52	W                  E	♥ 10
♦ AQJ5	S	♦ K76
♣ 1085		♣ QJ32
	♠ 8742	
	♥ J4	
	♦ 9832	
	♣ AK9	

Open Room

W	N	E	S
Zorlu	Meckstroth	Avcioglu	Rodwell
	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	All 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
	3♥	Dbl.	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

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. 15 IMPs down, with only three to play USA 3 Levine needed swings, but the next two deals offered no scope so the 11 IMPs they gained on the final deal when Turkey bid a slam with three diamond losers was not enough.