

## Guess Who?

N/S vul. Dealer South.

♠ 1054	
♥ K10974	
♦ 73	
♣ Q109	
♠ AQ96	♠ J83
♥ 3	♥ 2
♦ QJ2	♦ K9654
♣ K5432	♣ AJ76
	♠ K72
	♥ AQJ865
	♦ A10 8
	♣ 8

West	North	East	South
<i>Malinowski</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>de Botton</i>	<i>Teltscher</i>
			1♥
Dble	3♥	Dble	4♥
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Artur Malinowski won the best-played award on the above hand. Indeed the play was simple, but his reasoning was excellent. After the normal start of 1H – (Dble) – 3H (a couple of Norths bid 4H which tempted South to press on to 5H – which Shields and Denning for the Spring Fours took for 800. Janet de Botton made a responsive double on the East hand and South bid a normal Four Hearts; when this came round to Janet de Botton, she tried again with 4NT. Myers, for London, after a similar start to the auction bid Four Spades, but declarer was forced to go one off on the club lead, either sustaining a ruff or losing control.

In 5C, North, Priday, led the king of hearts and switched to a spade, which cleared up any doubts in that suit. West won the king with the ace, then played the king of clubs and finessed the jack for +400. Why did he do this? For two reasons. If South had a doubleton club, he would have been less inclined to go on to Four Hearts, and, also, North might have led or switched to a club with a doubleton. With Qxx he was never leading one. And given that the finesse was around 50% with the drop around 52% at the start, anything to tilt the balance was enough.

David Burn was seen mumbling after this award: “Years ago you needed a brilliancy to win the best-played hand in the Lederer. This year it goes to a simple finesse!”

The heading Guess Who? was a two-player party game invented in England in 1979. I am sure Artur would have enjoyed it.