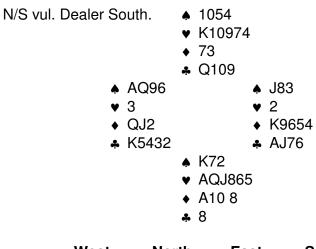
Guess Who?



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