

Keri Klinger Memorial Declarer Play of the Year

Winner: Marc Jacobus (USA)

Article : *Jacobus at the Helm*

Journalist: Micke Melander (Sweden)

Event: 2013 d'Orsi Trophy Semifinal, USA v. Poland.

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Jacobus at the Helm

Board 29. Dealer North. Both Vul.

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| | ♠ K 10 3 | |
| | ♥ 10 6 | |
| | ♦ K 10 9 8 5 | |
| | ♣ 7 5 4 | |
| ♠ Q 7 5 2 | | ♠ J 9 6 |
| ♥ A 7 5 4 | | ♥ K 2 |
| ♦ Q J | | ♦ A 7 6 3 2 |
| ♣ K J 9 | | ♣ A 10 6 |
| | ♠ A 8 4 | |
| | ♥ Q J 9 8 3 | |
| | ♦ 4 | |
| | ♣ Q 8 3 2 | |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Passell</i> | <i>Kowalski</i> | <i>Jacobus</i> | <i>Romanski</i> |
| — | Pass | 1♦ | 1♥ |
| Double | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Lasocki</i> | <i>Hayden</i> | <i>Russyan</i> | <i>Bates</i> |
| — | Pass | 1♦ | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Roger Bates, in the Closed Room, led the jack of hearts (Rusinow) and Jerzy Russyan went up with dummy's ace and called for the jack of diamonds from dummy, which went to the king, ace and four.

Declarer then played another diamond and when South discarded, he was two down when he, in an attempt to make his contract, tried to find South with both the ace and the king of spades.

Jacobus played very well at the other table. He ducked the queen of hearts lead and South shifted to the four of diamonds. That went to dummy's jack and the king from North, whereupon declarer again ducked! Kowalski, who didn't know what to believe, returned a diamond (a club switch here is the killer since, despite finding the queen of clubs for declarer, it destroys the communication between declarer and dummy). Declarer won the diamond in dummy, South discarding a heart. Jacobus now continued with the two of spades, the three, nine, ace. Romanski returned the eight of spades to the five, ten and declarer's jack. Jacobus cashed the king of hearts and played a spade to Kowalski's king. Declarer still only had eight tricks and had already lost four when

North was to play from:

| | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| | ♠ — | |
| | ♥ — | |
| | ♦ 10 9 8 | |
| | ♣ 7 5 4 | |
| ♠ Q | | ♠ — |
| ♥ A 7 | | ♥ — |
| ♦ — | | ♦ A 7 6 |
| ♣ K J 9 | | ♣ A 10 6 |
| | ♠ — | |
| | ♥ J 9 | |
| | ♦ — | |
| | ♣ Q 8 3 2 | |

Romanski exited with the ten of diamonds, ace from declarer, and South discarded the eight of clubs, dummy the jack of clubs. Jacobus next played a club to the king in dummy, cashed the heart ace, forcing a diamond discard from North. The spade queen administered the coup-de-grâce as North had to keep a diamond and South a heart. Thus neither could keep two clubs and the queen of clubs had to fall under the ace. That was a very well-deserved 13 IMPs to USA 2 for that terrific declarer play by Jacobus in a very difficult contract.

Other Shortlisted Candidates:

Wietzke van Zwol (Netherlands) in *“Wonderful Wietzke”* by Carla Arnolds (Netherlands), 2013 Venice Cup Semifinal, Netherlands v. USA, IBPA Bulletin 587.12

Ron Tacchi (France) in *“Jewel in the Crown”* by Mark Horton (England), 2014 French National Team Championship Qualifying, IBPA Bulletin 590.16

Cezary Balicki (Poland) in *“Knockout Punch”* by Sue Munday (USA), 2014 Spring NABC, IBPA Bulletin 592.13

Kevin Bathurst (USA) in *“The Final”* by Suzi Subeck (USA), USBF Open Trials, IBPA Bulletin 593.11