

Alt Best Hands Awards - Nominated Hand - Declarer Play

Reference Number **Dec 20**

Nominated by:

Name: Toine van Hoof **Country:** NL

Player(s): Marusa Gold **Team:** Harris

Event: **Date:** **Match:** **Board:**
NewCo10 18.11. 8 10

Link to replay: <https://tinyurl.com/yvtfefbh>

Nominator's comments:

Toine wrote (in the Bulletin)

Fabulous play

Toine van Hoof

In Round 8 Maruša Gold made a fabulous play to land an ambitious 7} contract.

Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

S K 3
H K 10 9 7 4 3
D 10 8
C QJ 4

S	Q 10 8 7 6	S	9 4 2
H	J 6	H	Q 8 5 2
D	KJ 6	D	7 4 3 2
C	8 3 2	C	6 5

S AJ 5
H A
D AQ 9 5
C AK 10 9 7

West	North	East	South
Sarniak	Tiholov	Kazmucha	M Gold
		Pass	1C*
Pass	1S*	Pass	2C
Pass	2H	Pass	2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	4C
Pass	4H*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5D*	Pass	5H*
Pass	5S*	Pass	7C
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1C 16+

1S 5+H, GF

4H cue

4NT RKCB for clubs

5D 0 or 3 KC

5H CQ?

5S SK + CQ

West led the C2. Even with open cards it is not easy to see how declarer can come to thirteen tricks. Maruša won with the 7, unblocked the HA and crossed to the CQ. She ruffed a heart with the CK, played the C10 to the jack, cashed the HK and, when the suit didn't split, ruffed another heart. She then made the crucial play of cashing the DA before playing a spade to the king. This was the end position:

S 3

H 10 9

D 10

C -

S Q 10

H -

D K J

C -

S 4 2

H -

D 7 4

C -

S A J

H -

D Q 9

C -

On the H10 East pitched the S2, South the D9 and West the DJ. On the H9 East discarded the D4 and South the DQ, while West had to give up the S10. Maruša unerringly played a spade to the ace, dropping the queen. The SJ took the last trick for a magnificent plus 2140 and a gain of 19 IMPs (at the other table South went down in 6NT).

Maruša made the following comment on her play:

“I didn't want to commit to a certain line (finesse) immediately and was trying to test all my chances. This is why I played a trump on trick 3 to see if trumps are 3-2 or 4-1 (if 4-1 I thought I needed hearts 3-3). When I saw trumps were 3-2 I ruffed a heart and now in case hearts were 3-3 I was home. When that didn't work I had to decide which finesse to take. I was just going to take the spade finesse and cashed the ace of diamonds first because I thought that might give me some squeeze possibilities. After West discarded the 10 of spades and the jack of diamonds I changed my mind and I thought the squeeze was working.

Don't make me sound like some mastermind though, I could have easily gone down in a laydown as it usually happens :)”

Modesty is not in place here. Maruša Gold played the hand absolutely brilliantly and is hereby nominated for the BeBridge Best Played Alt Hand.

The screenshot shows a Bridge Base Online hand viewer interface. The deal is as follows:

Player	Hand
N (polborta)	♠ K3 ♥ K109743 ♦ 108 ♣ QJ4
W (grrrwrrr)	♠ Q10876 ♥ J6 ♦ KJ6 ♣ 832
E (dana_5)	♠ 942 ♥ Q852 ♦ 7432 ♣ 65
S (marusab)	♠ AJ5 ♥ A ♦ AQ95 ♣ AK1097

Contract: 7♠ S, NS: 0, EW: 0

Lead: 10♦

Tricks taken:

Trick	W	N	E	S
1	P	1♠	P	1♣
2	P	2♥	P	2NT
3	P	3♣	P	4♣
4	P	4♥	P	4NT

The interface also shows a browser window with the URL: [https://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?tbl=y&lin=prjmarusab.grrrwrrr.polborta.dana_5&tbl=mdj45AJ5HADAC95CAKT97.SQT876HJ6DKJ6C832.SK3HKT9743DT8CQJ4JrhljhljBoard%2010\[sv\]b\]mb\]j\]...](https://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?tbl=y&lin=prjmarusab.grrrwrrr.polborta.dana_5&tbl=mdj45AJ5HADAC95CAKT97.SQT876HJ6DKJ6C832.SK3HKT9743DT8CQJ4JrhljhljBoard%2010[sv]b]mb]j]...)