

JACEK PSZCZOLA

He is sometimes referred to by Western journalists as 'Pepsi Cola' and is one of the younger generation of Polish bridgewizards, having been born on the tenth of January, 1967. Married with one son and living in Lublin, he graduated as a mining machine engineer, and now works in the oil industry. He represents the Unia Winkhaus Bridge club in Leszno. He learned to play bridge with a couple of friends whilst on a school vacation. He enjoys the competitive element of bridge and considers the opening lead to be the most difficult area of the game to master. He believes that it is impossible to find the ideal partner, the most important skill being the ability to get your partners to play their best. When he is not playing bridge you will find him on the basketball court. A former Polish Junior Champion, he won the World Open Pairs Championship at Lille in 1998, finished second in the European Open Teams Championship at Montecatini in 1997, and took third place in the World Transnational Open Teams at Hammamet in the same year. He also won the prestigious Polish bridge event, Festival Solidarnosci, in Slupsk, 1995. He made a successful debut in America in 1999 at the North American Bridge Championships in Boston, taking sixth place in the prestigious Reisinger Teams. Jacek has partnered Michal Kwiecien for seven years and together they topped a star-studded field in Las Vegas in the Cavendish Calcutta. Jacek Pszczola is the youngest player in the Polish, he is a 33 year old mining engineer from Lublin and a businessman. His bridge club is Unia Winkhaus Leszno. He is a former Polish Junior Champion and is now trying for his first titles in the Open category. Best achievements: World Open Pairs Championship, Lille 1998, second place in European Open Teams Championship, Montecatini 1997, third place in World Transnational Open Teams, Hammamet 1997. He also won the prestigious Polish bridge event - Festival Solidarnosci in Slupsk 1995. One year ago, during Fall North American Bridge Championships in Boston, he made a successful debut in America. Jacek and Michal Kwiecien have now played together for eight years.

MICHAL KWIECIEN

is an automotive engineer from Lublin and a businessman. His bridge club is Unia Winkhaus Leszno. He was born on the first of March 1957, is an automotive engineer and businessman from Lublin. Married with two daughters, he plays for a bridge club in Leszno - Unia Winkhaus. He learned to play with friends at secondary school and considers the most compelling aspect of bridge to be the moment of victory. He regards defense as the most difficult part of the game, whilst looking for good play and calmness in the ideal partner. His hobbies are skiing and travel, and he sees bridge as being an excellent way to pursue both. Kwiecien's biggest bridge successes include first place in the World Open Pairs Championship at Lille in 1998, second place in the European Open Teams Championship at Montecatini in 1997, third place in the World Transnational Open Teams at Hammamet in 1997, all of them with Jacek Pszczola. He also won gold in the European Junior Teams Championship at Salsomaggiore in 1982 with his former partner Marek Wojcicki. He has been playing with Jacek Pszczola since 1993, and the pair finished at the top of a world-class field in the 2001 Cavendish Calcutta in Las Vegas.