



Hooligans cast shadow over 2012

Violence after Cup Final prompts calls for immediate action

Donald Tusk threatened football clubs with the prospect of playing games behind closed doors after running battles between police and hooligans marred the Polish Cup Final.

Not mincing his words the prime minister called for urgent action to deal with crowd violence.

"Together with police and local authorities we have decided that events will take place without fans present if the police say they are unable to guarantee safety," he told a press conference held in the wake of rioting between Legia Warszawa and Lech Poznan fans at the Cup Final played in Bydgoszcz this Tuesday.

"Measures used so far have proven themselves inefficient," he conceded. "The modern stadiums we are building are not meant to witness this kind of Medieval-era behaviour."

The violence in Bydgoszcz came a few weeks after Polish fans clashed with police and damaged a stadium in Lithuania during a "friendly" game.

During the events that overshadowed the Cup Final itself, hundreds of fans spilled onto the pitch during the riot, which caused PLN 40,000 in damages.

As a punishment, both clubs will now play their next games behind closed doors.



Scenes witnessed after the Cup Final demonstrate stories of hooliganism being under control are a myth

The threat of excluding supporters revealed growing concern in Poland over the threat hooliganism still poses to the Euro 2012 football championship, which the country will co-host with Ukraine. Poland has already come under fire from UEFA, European football's governing body, over crowd violence, and officials from the organisation were in Bydgoszcz to witness the fighting instead of the match.

To try to control the problem Mr Tusk also called for harsh sentences to be handed down to offenders and the imposition of lengthy bans from football grounds for hooligans.

He also criticised the clubs for failing to deal with the problem, highlighting the relationship between them and dubious fans' associations that may harbour hooligan elements.

"There seems to be a strange symbiosis between the clubs and these organisations that is a symbol of helplessness," he said.

Adam Giersz, the sports minister, also attacked the clubs. He said that clubs such as Legia Warszawa had modern stadiums with security systems that could identify troublemakers but failed to utilise them, adding that there appeared to be "a lack of will on the clubs' part" to enforce security.

NATIONAL

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PL helps target bin Laden

There have been a number of reports in the Polish press this week suggesting that Poland played a major role in locating terrorist Osama bin Laden.

The al-Qaeda leader, generally regarded as the mastermind behind the September 11 attacks, was shot dead by US troops after being found in a compound near the Pakistani city of Abbottabad.

REGIONAL

p.7

February in May

Thousands of startled people across Poland this week awoke to find snow had returned, plunging them back into the depths of winter in the middle of May. Damage was exacerbated by the fact that trees in full foliage catch a far greater weight of snow than in winter – meaning there were far more collapses and broken branches, leading to severe disruptions to power supplies.

BUSINESS

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End of the EU borders

This week saw both Germany and Austria open their borders to Poland and the rest of the countries which joined the EU in 2004.

The lifting of the barriers on May 1 means that citizens from the latest batch of European Union states are now free to seek employment in either country without having to apply for a work permit beforehand.

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From the editor



Osama's dead, I'm off and Sibbald's in. That's the thrust of today's column.

First, bin Laden.

As Polish leaders lined up this week to praise Obama for getting Osama, news emerged that the lead had come from the interrogation of prisoners held in Poland.

Officially, Warsaw has always denied hosting CIA black sites. Evidence from spooks, the Red Cross, and others suggested differently.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was subjected to water-boarding 183 times before being sent to Gitmo. Some, if not all of that happened in Poland and the information gleaned led US intelligence to finding the courier who eventually led them to bin Laden.

Now that the world's most wanted man has been killed, the question has re-emerged over whether the "extreme methods of interrogation" used to get to him are justifiable or not. In other words, is torture ever right?

The answer in international law is categorical: no. Along with genocide, torture is the only crime that every state must punish, no matter who commits it or where.

Critics argue this is a blanket response which doesn't take into account reality or ticking bomb scenarios.

And yet, by condoning the use of torture are democratic governments not betraying the very values they profess to stand for?

Tricky banana that and as you mull it over there's just enough room left for me to say cheerio as editor. Yep, I'm off.

Despite NPE being just a Friday morning hobby for us chaps here - such high quality in such short time - increasing full-time journalistic commitments mean that I can't go on.

And so after 2.5 years I'm stepping back and Mr Sibbald who's been standing in valiantly during my numerous absences is taking over.

So continue to enjoy it and remember: NPE really is the best English summary of Polish news anywhere in Poland.

Quotes of the week

"Closing the stadiums will not help. The PM's actions are just to show off." SLD leader Grzegorz Napieralski on Donald Tusk's idea to play football matches behind closed doors.

"After 20 odd years of building a free and democratic society, it is like an entrance to the world of Orwell." PiS MP Zbigniew Romaszewski comments on proposed education laws which will provide individual data about pupils including sensitive information such as psychologist's opinions.

"People should not celebrate the death of a man, but we all felt relieved." PM Donald Tusk speaks about the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Have Your Say

Re: Toddler in vicious dog attack

Not a day goes by when I don't hear growling or barking on the streets outside my flat. How many more attacks like the ones mentioned need to occur before the government finally acts and bans these wild animals. The general public obviously aren't responsible enough to use their common sense so it's about time somebody else did.

Sam Hill - Katowice, Poland

Re: Sikh as a parrot

The Polish Border Guard has many "unruly" among them - most are undereducated, underpaid, ignorant and overpowered... the old post communist dictatorial gait, coupled with a lack of any sense of "service to the public" dominates their little brains. Instead of ensuring that the airport is "safe" they confuse it with "did we crap the shit out of that passenger". God help us when 2012 comes along - everyone will have to strip off & show their bare arses to these dumbheads....

John Thomas - Kielce, Poland

This week in history

1919 - The Adam Mickiewicz University is opened in Poznan. Originally called 'Wszechnica Piastowska' ('University of the Piasts'), it has carried the name of one of the nation's most famous poets since 1955 and has around 49,000 students.

1971 - Katowice's 'Spodek' is officially opened. Famous for its sporting events and major-name concerts, the complex also includes a gym, ice rink and hotel. The arena can hold up to 11,500 and is the biggest indoor venue of its kind in the country.

1989 - The first issue of Gazeta Wyborcza is published. With a circulation of 319,000, the paper is the second largest in Poland and believed to be one of the most influential and opinion-forming.

The NPE weekend QUIZ



This week we've got a double invitation to give away to see the Pushkin Kiev Klezmer Band play in Wroclaw on June 1.

The band is playing as part of the 'Simcha' Jewish Culture Festival - an event aimed at getting to the roots of Jewish culture, showing its traditions and teaching respect and tolerance.

Featuring clarinets, keyboards, accordions and more, these guys are a great addition and are guaranteed to leave you with a smile on your face.

Just tell us then, on what street is The White Stork Synagogue (the inspiration behind the festival).

Congratulations to Dondon Farrales for being our winner last week. As always, send your answers in to: editor@newpolandexpress.pl



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PL helps target bin Laden

There have been a number of reports in the Polish press this week suggesting that Poland played a major role in locating terrorist Osama bin Laden.

The al-Qaeda leader, generally regarded as the mastermind behind the September 11 attacks, was shot dead by US troops after being found in a compound near the Pakistani city of Abbottabad.

According to Polski Radio, the information that led to the locating of the safe house was obtained while Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Abu Faraj al-Libi (both alleged senior members of the terrorist organisation) were being held near the Szczytno-Szymany airport in the north-east of Poland.

The reports state it was during this time that the CIA, through the alleged use of 'enhanced interrogation techniques', was able to learn the name of bin Laden's trusted courier. Agents were then able to monitor the courier closely and by doing so, eventually locate bin Laden.

Upon hearing the news he had been killed, President Komorowski said that it was an important day for Poland. "It's worth remembering one of the objectives of the antiterrorist coalition, of which Poland has played its part, is to punish those responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Centre and other places in the US."

Source revealed for WWII murder

A German writer who has long argued that Winston Churchill ordered the assassination of Poland's wartime leader has revealed his source for the first time.

In his latest book Rolf Hochhuth said a former British secret service agent had told him in the 1960s that Churchill had ordered the murder of General Wladyslaw Sikorski in order to remove an impediment to fruitful and vital British relations with the Soviet Union.

General Sikorski, then Poland's prime minister and commander in chief, died when his Royal Air Force Liberator bomber crashed into the sea just seconds after taking off from the British colony of Gibraltar on the night of July 4, 1943. Although an official report into the crash attributed the disaster to a technical malfunction the death of the general has long been a subject of intense speculation.

In 1967 Mr Hochhuth wrote a play called "Soldiers" in which he first made the allegations against Churchill but at the time he did not reveal his source. Now he says it was the wife of his publisher and one-time British intelligence agent Jane Ledig-Rowohl.

"People may idolise Churchill but don't forget that this was a man who was fighting," she apparently told the writer during a meeting in 1963. "He destroyed the French fleet in Oran and

he murdered Sikorski," adding that she was "100 percent certain" that the British prime minister was behind the death of his Polish peer.

Mr Hochhuth said that he had told the source he would keep her secret for at least 50 years but decided to release her name early as all the intelligence agents involved had died childless and therefore there were no families that could suffer the consequence of the revelations.

But the flipside is that with all the protagonists now dead, nobody can either refute or corroborate the story.

The Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) is still conducting an investigation into Sikorski's death, but working with the assumption that Stalin had the Polish leader killed. A post mortem carried out by the IPN on the general's remains concluded he died from injuries conducive with a those sustained in a plane crash.

Despite the IPN's findings conspiracy theories have persisted, in part because of the colourful cast of characters involved. Along with Churchill and Stalin, the notorious Soviet spy and British MI5 officer Kim Philby has been linked to the death, and film actor Anthony Quayle, star of war films the Guns of Navarone and Ice Cold in Alex, was the last man to see Sikorski alive.



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Thieves hit heritage sites

Poland is being stripped of its cultural heritage by thieves and citizens unaware they are breaking the law, a national institute has warned.

A report by the Institute of National Heritage said that almost every day a piece of the country's culture is stripped from a church or cemetery, or stolen from a museum or gallery, and the scale of the problem goes unrecognised.

"Thefts from museum exhibitions and from collections can hit the headlines but a lot of the time crimes against cultural heritage get little recognition," it said in a statement designed to raise public awareness of the problem.

The institute added that most of the purloined items were taken with export in mind such as the Auschwitz "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign that was stolen from the concentration camp in a high-profile heist in December 2009.

Although police recovered the Auschwitz sign in Poland before it was smuggled to Sweden most pieces evade detection, never to return to their homeland.

But while theft is a growing problem experts have also warned that many people may break the law unwittingly when it comes to protecting cultural heritage.

"We often do not realize that we are breaking the law," said the institute. "If you want to export an old picture that belonged to your grandmother, for example, you have to be sure that it is not more than 50 years old and that its value does not exceed PLN 40,000. So you have to make sure you have all the documentation needed to export the piece."

The statement comes as investigators continue to hunt for the mysterious owners of a Renoir painting found last year by customs agents in a post office.

Heritage experts hope that increasing co-operation with the police and customs will help curb the flourishing, and often illicit, export trade in Poland's cultural heritage.

"The uniformed services have set up specialised teams to investigate crimes against heritage," said the institute. "They are co-operating with experts in antiquities to come up with effective ways of cataloguing collections and describing items. All this should help aid in the recovery of stolen art."

Tribute march for dead teen

Hundreds of people marched through the streets of Radom this week to pay tribute to a teenage boy who died after a brutal attack on Easter Monday.

According to daily Fakt, around 500 people took part in the 'March Against Violence', an event organised to remember 19-year-old Maciek Miesnik who was severely beaten for accidentally drinking somebody else's drink at a party.

Friends and family were joined by members of the general public as well as Mayor Andrzej Kosztowniak who was equally saddened by the unnecessary death.

"This terrible tragedy could have been prevented, it would have taken just seconds. But nothing was done," he said.

The incident took place outside club 'Aula' where Maciek and the two alleged attackers (22-year-old Wojciech S. and 21-year-old Piotr R.) had been drinking.

After being set upon for drinking a beer by mistake, Maciek went outside where he was brutally beaten. After the attack, an ambulance arrived to take him to hospital, where he later died.

"The patient underwent a neurosurgical operation, but the injuries were very extensive," says Bozena Pacholczak, a spokesperson for the Regional Hospital.

Since the march, a number of participants have signed a petition calling for the closure of the club and friends have even created a Facebook group calling for justice to be served.

"At the moment everything depends on witnesses and the evidence," says Radom District Attorney Robert Czerwinski. "We are waiting for autopsy results. If the death is indeed a consequence of a beating then the perpetrator could face up to 10 years imprisonment. At the moment I can give no more details."

Saturday 14th May 2011

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IN BRIEF

Attacked on a train

A ticket inspector has been suspended after allegedly detaining a female passenger in a compartment and sexually assaulting her.

The incident took place on a train travelling between Przemysl - Bydgoszcz when the conductor, known only as Jan Z. (49) approached the woman asking for tickets.

According to TVN24, when the woman stated she had no ticket, Jan Z. is believed to have shut her inside the compartment and started touching her. Boguslaw Marcinkowska of the District Prosecutors Office in Krakow states that there is a good chance he will be charged on both grounds, and if found guilty face up to eight years in prison.

Komorowski marks Constitution Day

Bronislaw Komorowski was in Warsaw on Tuesday May 3 to pay a personal tribute to the 220th anniversary of the Polish Constitution.

Speaking from Plac Zamkowy the President said, "This is not just a document from the past, but an everlasting source of strength and wisdom for the people of Poland."

He went on to say the constitution provided proof that the nation was able to act with responsibility and govern itself appropriately. This, he added, was not always an easy thing to do.

May 3 marks the anniversary of the ratification of the Polish Constitution of 1791, the second democratic constitution of its kind in the world after America.

Poor Pope party

Organisers of a disco celebrating the beatification of John Paul II were left red-faced after only 800 people turned up, instead of the predicted 6,000. The disco, set up by a 29-year-old vicar in Lodz, had a number of strict guidelines including no alcohol, no erotic songs and 'dignified dress' and it is believed that these helped lead to the poor turnout.

"One of the reasons is probably peer-pressure from friends," Grazyna Lerman-Mikolajczyk, a family sociologist from Lodz University told TVN. "Attending such an event would be leaving yourself open to ridicule from friends."

Amongst the games and the music, a local priest was also on hand in case anybody felt the urge to take confession.

Prince William's Polish roots

A historian claims to have traced Prince William's family tree back to ancestors in Poland. According to daily Fakt Dr Jerzy Lapo, of the Folk Culture Museum in Węgorzewo, states that Maria Eleonora von Lehndorff (born near the town in 1723) is amongst one of those related to the Prince, making the King of Denmark Christian IX (her grandson) his great, great, grandfather.

In addition to this, the historian claims that Julia Teresa Salomea Hauke (the Prince's great, great Grandmother was born in 1852 in the Polish capital.

Breast bra on the market

Scientists in Lodz have designed what is being hailed as the perfect 'health bra' by using a new form of technology.

Workers at the 'Institute of Healthy Polish Mothers' have spent the last 18 months carefully designing the undergarment and claim that as well as offering maximum comfort, the bra also helps prevent against breast cancer.

According to Marek Zadrozny, who led the team of scientists from the Technical University of Lodz, the bras have a number of different benefits.

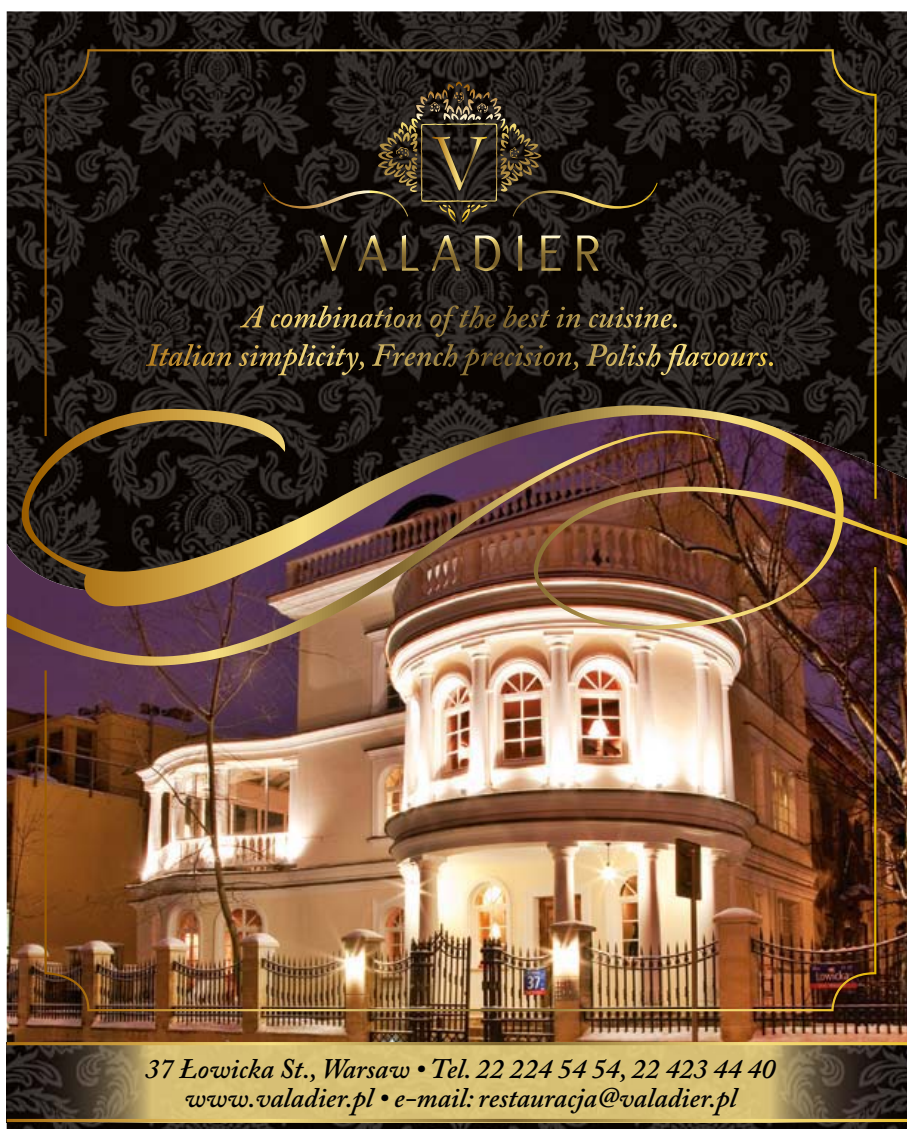
"Polish women often buy bras that are too small in the bust and this is not only uncomfortable but looks bad and can lead to serious problems," he tells daily Fakt. "As a result of fasteners which are too loose or too tight, the cups cause abnormal movement of the lymphatic tissue, which studies have shown can lead to the development of breast cancer."

The design process, which took approximately one and a half years, was an incredibly complicated one explains Mariusz Hanczka, Managing Director of Corin, the company producing the bras.

"First we constructed silhouettes of women using 3D technology, then created a 3D bra on-screen. We were able to examine the pressure caused by the bra by viewing red dots on the various breasts. These meant the breasts were constricted in these areas. We kept repeating this process until we had a perfect model."

Once this stage was complete, the bras were then produced and tested on real women, with aspects such as temperature and constriction being once again measured using the same on-screen technology.

The new bras have already hit both the Polish and foreign market and are priced at around PLN 200.



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WITHOUT RHYME OR REGION



Just when you think the stupid world of Polish football can't get any stupider... Where can anyone begin in trying to discuss the riots that followed Tuesday's Polish Cup final? The hideous hooligan excesses were entirely predictable and entirely avoidable. The reactions of all involved afterwards were entirely predictable and entirely contemptible. The pussillanimous, "It's not our fault" mewling

of Mr. Grzegorz Lato, head of the Polish FA – an organisation that appears to be as much use as tits on a boar.

But for once, the clowns at the Polish FA have been outdone by the magnificent boys in blue, those whose task is to serve and protect. The Polish police force managed, in a move of monumental crassness, to metaphorically crap all over the law, the courts and every single peaceful, football-loving fan. In a [picture](#) that should live in ignominy, Legia Warszawa hooligan leader "Staruch" can be seen holding the Polish Cup aloft, to the delight of his

surrounding orcs, despite being the subject of a stadium ban for assaulting one of his own team's players. How did he get in? Well, the police wrote to the Polish FA and asked, very politely, if he could be given a ticket.

There will be noises after this, people in authority will talk tough, but we all know nothing will change. The hooligans have taken over the asylum. Polish football is dead. Let's hope the vicious morons don't kill EURO 2012. But frankly, if I were Michel Platini, I'd be soiling my Y-fronts.

POMORSKIE

Derail driver talks



Regional prosecutors in Slupsk this week completed interviewing the 64-year-old lorry driver whose vehicle derailed a train at Mosty near Lebrork

on April 28, killing two. He is now likely to be charged with driving without due care and attention and causing a traffic incident involving loss of life. The man has said he tried to cross despite clearly hearing the warning signals.

"He thought he could make it across, but he miscalculated the speed of the train and the distance he had to cover," Jacek Korycki, press officer for the prosecutors told reporters. Investigators had already established that barriers at the scene of the accident were fully functional.

The accident happened last Thursday evening, when a passenger train from Gdynia to Katowice hit smack in the middle of the Scania lorry carrying a consignment of bricks. The locomotive and four carriages were derailed in the incident and two passengers died as a result of their injuries, 24 more were injured. Amazingly, the driver of the lorry survived unscathed, despite his lorry being completely destroyed.

Polish rail estimate the incident cost about PLN 12 mln. All the rolling stock involved was reduced to scrap and 200m of track destroyed. Traffic along the line was disrupted until late on May 1.

No shit!

City Guard have been operating a zero tolerance policy towards dog owners in the Wrzeszcz area for the last month, with great effect. Residents in the area report a large decline in the amount of doggy waste on the streets and in children's play-

grounds since City Guard have taken to appearing several times a day in the area, reminding dog owners of the duty to clear up after their little treasures leave their 'little treasures' behind.

The increased patrols were a response to complaints from residents. In the last month officers have intervened fifty times, a reprimand sufficing in most cases. "If our warnings were ignored, or if we caught someone a second time, we immediately issued a fine. In total we issued sixteen fines to a value of PLN 680," commented Milosz Jurgielewicz, press officer for Gdansk City Guard.

"It's looks much nicer. You can open your window and it doesn't stink," one happy resident, a certain Mr Henryk, told reporters from Gazeta Trojmiasto. Jurgielewicz assured reporters that the City Guard would be equally sensitive to calls from other parts of the city, "It's one of the most important problems we're trying to tackle here in Gdansk."



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MAZOWIECKIE

Warsaw bypass plans unveiled



The environmental green light was given to plans for the ring-road to the south of Warsaw this Thursday. Approval from the Ministry for the Environment

is one of the key stages in the development of the project. The plans include long tunnel sections and a range of other measures aimed at minimising the road's effect on the environment. Nevertheless, officials are expecting objections and complaints to be lodged by environmental organisations.

The most sensitive part of the project is near Wawer and Mokotow, where the road comes close to the Mazowieckie Nature Reserve. The new South Bridge will be a traditional design without towers or suspension wires and will be sparsely lit so as to reduce the impact on nesting birds in the area. There will also be special underpasses for wild animals and sound barriers.

Construction of the bypass, though, is not scheduled to begin for at least three years. Eventually the south bypass will link up with the A2 motorway, which itself forms a part of the E30 route running all the way from Cork in Ireland to Omsk in Russia.

Ulan in a Fiat

A Warsaw police patrol arrested a 27-year-old driver of a Fiat who was behaving suspiciously, on searching his car they found a painting by Polish master Wojciech Kossak, titled 'Ulan on horseback'. Officers in Bemowo reacted when the driver accelerated on spotting them. When they asked him to pull over, he tried to escape.

After a brief chase the car stopped and a passenger emerged and ran off. Officers succeeded in detaining the car's driver, Chrystian H at the scene. On searching his car they recovered the painting and a brass clock as well as a crowbar and screwdrivers.

Early arrival on platform 2

Police were called to Warsaw's Dworzec Wilenski this Thursday at around noon, where a young woman had been seen with a naked young baby. It turned out that the baby had just been born to the 23-year-old mother on the platform in temperatures barely above zero. "The severely cold mother and child were given warm clothing and officers immediately sent for an ambulance. They are both now in hospital being treated by doctors," Anna Kedzierzaska for Warsaw Police told reporters.

AROUND POLAND

Matura time again



This week saw the exam season begin in earnest as some 400,000 pupils faced their school-leaving exam – the dreaded matura.

This week began with compulsory exams in Polish and Maths. Initial reactions to both tests were highly positive, with students claiming they were easier than anticipated. So far there have been no reports, as in previous years, concerning leaks of exam papers to the Internet and everything appears to be running smoothly.

February in May

Thousands of startled people across Poland this week awoke to find snow had returned, plunging them back into the depths of winter in the middle of May. Damage was exacerbated by the fact that trees in full foliage catch a far greater weight of snow than in winter – meaning there were far more collapses and broken branches, leading to severe disruptions to power supplies.

On Wednesday morning this week, about 20,000 homes across much of southern Poland were still without electricity. At the worst moment, on Tuesday evening, a massive 102,000 customers were cut off. "You have to remember, the term



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'customer' refers to a single meter. So the actual number of people affected is much higher," commented Krzysztof Deren of the Dolnoslaskie Regional Crisis Unit. Fire officers were busy answering over a thousand emergency calls.

One strange side effect was that the number of accidents and deaths on the roads actually went down as a result of the conditions, with drivers on summer tyres slowing down and taking more care than usual.

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DOLNOSLASKIE

The workers are revolting



Rampaging workers from KMGH smashed their way into the company's headquarters this Thursday, injuring five security guards in the process. Several

hundred union members gathered in front of the building where their leaders were engaged in talks with management. They threw beer cans, eggs and fireworks before attempting to storm the offices, some managing to get inside. Six security guards were injured in the attack, one left with a broken arm.

"They couldn't hold them back, the glass doors were smashed in. The wounded security guards were treated in the health centre here. We've never seen such aggression here before," commented a spokesperson for KGHM.

"That's a lie, that union members threw beer cans, or if they did, they were empty ones," replied Ryszard Zbrzyzny for the Copper Industry Workers Union. Police are looking into the incident and have already gathered CCTV footage of the events.

"We've seized the material from the monitoring cameras, we're already interviewing witnesses. We're trying to get to the people responsible, anyone who was behaving in breach of the law," Jan Pocięcha of Lubin Police Headquarters told reporters, adding that breach of the peace and destruction of property can result in a five year prison sentence. Union members were demonstrating for a PLN 300 a month increase in wages and also for changes in the process of collective bargaining within the company.

Walbrzych goes to the polls (again)

Walbrzych has been plunged into a re-run of the second round of local presidential elections, following a court decision to annul the result last week. The long-running legal battle over the elections [NPE 13/114] was finally decided with the court accepting the complaints by Patryk Wild that vote purchasing took place, and removing the mandate awarded to the winner, Piotr Kruczkowski of Civic Platform (PO).

The initial hearing threw out the complaint by Wild, claiming it was all based on hearsay. At last Thursday's hearing the court took testimony from Robert S. and Marcin B., who are facing prosecution for perverting the electoral process, that they purchased votes for PO in both rounds. Local PO chief Stefan Ewangel also faces charges for his role in the incident.

LODZKIE

Fountain of generosity



A row has broken out after Lodz City Hall announced a tender for the purchase of, among other things, 300 gold plated fountain pens and 200 pendorives

with silver cases set with Swarovski crystals and amber. The total cost of the tender is for PLN 300,000 and has led to accusations of wasting public money.

Halszka Karolewska, press officer for Lodz City Hall explained, "On July 1 Poland takes over the presidency of the EU and diplomats and foreign investors will be visiting all the major cities. We can't really give them cheap plastic biros, can we?" She also pointed out that the budget for such marketing materials is no higher than in previous years, "The order includes things like promotional

t-shirts, balloons and backpacks."

However, with the city PLN 1.5 bln in debt, opposition politicians see things differently. "I can't understand it. In six months President Zdanowska hasn't found time to announce a single tender for investment in the roads system or road repairs, but she found time to buy gold pens and silver pendorives for three hundred thousand zloty. So someone will visit Lodz, get a beautiful pen, then break an axle as they drive away," commented Dariusz Jonski, leader of the Democratic Left Alliance in the region.

Cemetery smashed again

Gravestones in the Soviet soldiers' cemetery in Lodz's Poniatowski Park have been hit by vandals again, only three weeks after a similar incident involving a group of young hooligans [NPE 15/116]. Despite a patrol being rapidly dispatched to the scene, the culprits were not apprehended. The damage is estimated at several thousand zloty.

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End of the EU borders

This week saw both Germany and Austria open their borders to Poland and the rest of the countries which joined the EU in 2004.

The lifting of the barriers on May 1 means that citizens from the latest batch of European Union states are now free to seek employment in either country without having to apply for a work permit beforehand.

Austria and Germany were the last two nations to abolish their borders, both choosing to keep limits on work places for seven years (the maximum amount of time allowed by the EU).

Polish MEP Danuta Hubner has stated that this will now offer a great opportunity

for specialist workers or entrepreneurs, but could have a negative effect on Polish enterprises.

"The labour force reserves in Poland are too small and if we take into account the developing economy, we need to be more ambitious."

However, it has also been suggested that the German market is no longer as attractive to Poles as it once was. According to TVN24, six years ago the average German salary was five times that in Poland, whereas today it has dropped down to only three times the amount.

Harvest fears for farmers

Farmers up and down the country are expressing their fears that due to a recent drop in temperatures, part of their harvests may be damaged.

Major concerns lie with farms that have already blossomed early, with fruit such as peaches and cherries at the top of the list.

According to Polski Radio, some farmers have already complained about destroyed crops, especially in regions such as Silesia, Kujavia-Pomerania and Wielkopolska.

The problem not only lies in the reduced amount of stock produced, but due to

the climate, the quality will also suffer, meaning a double-blow to those in the industry.

In a desperate attempt to try and combat the problems, many in the business are spraying their harvests with micronutrients, which they hope will go some way to help the situation.

Polish farmers experienced a similar situation ten years ago, when extreme cold weather during spring destroyed approximately 90 percent of crops across the country.



What's going on in Poland?



NBP OFFICIAL CURRENCY RATES 06/05/2011		
Currency	Symbol	Mid-rate
Canadian Dollar	1 CAD	2,8174
Czech Koruna	1 CZK	0,1642
Danish Krone	1 DKK	0,5310
Euro	1 EUR	3,9600
Hungarian Forint	100 HUF	1,4920
Japanese Yen	100 JPY	3,3943
Norwegian Krone	1 NOK	0,4972
Pound Sterling	1 GBP	4,4652
Russian Ruble	1 RUB	0,0982
Swedish Krona	1 SEK	0,4384
Swiss Franc	1 CHF	3,1236
US Dollar	1 USD	2,7270

IN NUMBERS

400,000
The number of Poles believed to be working in Germany according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

PLN 200 mln
The amount of money PKN Orlen has pledged towards the search and extraction of shale gas.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Best at stress
A new study reveals that Poles are the most stressed out work force in the world. The results, compiled by research company Extended DISC, shows that when it comes to getting agitated in the work place, Poland ranks top, with South Korea and Denmark in second and third place respectively. Those living in large cities are more susceptible

to stress with the capital topping the list. According to the findings 19 out of every 20 workers in Warsaw complain about employment stress.

Biedronka flying high
Supermarket chain Biedronka boasted profits of EUR 56.4 mln in the first quarter of this year - an increase of 15 percent compared to 2010.

Since the beginning of 2011 the company, owned by Portugal-based Jeronimo Martins, has closed three existing store and opened 19 new ones, and any negative press caused by Jaroslaw Kaczynski seems to have done the supermarket no harm.

The PiS leader recently made the headline on a much-publicised shopping trip when he stated that Biedronka was "a shop for the poor".

Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor Of The City Of Krakow INVITES

Teatr Groteska

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GREAT OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE ON THE VISTULA RIVER
4th June, 10.00 pm

FAMILY DRAGON PICNIC
4th June, 10.00 am - 9.30 pm
5th June, 10.00 am - 7.00 pm

CONCERT OF MARTINE LUND HOEL
4th June, 8.30 pm

WWW.PARADASMOKOW.PL
WWW.GROTESKA.PL

Organizers: PGNiG, Krakow, Teatr Groteska
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SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND from In Your Pocket



Warsaw is currently a buzz (well, we think it is) with the news that next Saturday will see the city's first British stand-up comedy night, an event taking place at the Warsaw Tortilla Factory (where else, really?) and free to subscribers of this newspaper who get their arses in gear quick enough and apply for the limited number of spaces available (click on the ad on page 4 to reserve your complimentary ticket - we're sponsoring the tickets for this first event). It is the first of what I am sure will be a regular night of British comedy - not just in Warsaw but elsewhere in Poland.

Anyone in doubt as to the quality of the comedians should rest assured. The same team who put together next Saturday's gig have been performing once a month in my home town (Bucharest) for the past year.

Each gig has been terrific, and each has been sold out. What's also been noticeable is that the crowd - which was almost 100 per cent British at the first gig - has become increasingly international as the months have gone on and word that top class comedy can now be seen in Bucharest has got around. At the last gig in April, at least half the audience were locals. Indeed, so popular have these nights become that the comedians now perform a second gig each weekend - in English of course - at a Romanian comedy club for a wholly Romanian audience. English humour clearly travels well. If you haven't booked your places for next week yet, do it now.

On a less pleasant note, Poland was once again in the international headlines this week for all the wrong reasons. The scenes at the Polish Cup Final on Wednesday night were - for those of us Brits watching - a throwback to the bad old days of the 1980s,

when 300-a-side along the Fulham Road was a regular feature of going to football. Alas, such incidents - on Wednesday it was a pitch invasion by supporters of Lech Poznan, whose team had just lost on penalties to Legia Warsaw - are far more common in Poland than anyone would wish.

Whether or not they deserve the heavy-handed governmental response that has followed however is another matter. What we do know is that pricing ordinary people out of the game should not be an option: ticket prices for the opening game (Poland v France) at the new stadium in Gdansk were announced this week: the cheapest seats are 80 zlots, but most tickets cost 160 zlots and up. Grzegorz Lato, president of the Polish FA, defended the prices, saying: 'We are finished with cheap tickets, we had only problems with hooligans. Now families will come'.

Not at those prices they won't.

Gdansk

07.05 Saturday - Alina Orlova

Gdańsk, Stacja Orunia, ul. Dworcowa 9 (Orunia), tel. (+48) 58 306 66 76, www.gak.gda.pl ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 20/30zł. Available at Stacja Orunia (Open 12:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun during events) and before the concert.

Gdynia

08.05 Sunday - Smolik

Gdynia, Ucho, ul. Św. Piotra 2, tel. (+48) 58 306 66 76, www.ucho.com.pl ▶ Concert starts at 20:00.

Tickets 55/65zł. Available in Ucho box office (Open only during concerts).

Sopot

10.05 Tuesday - Jazz Travel - Outside Sources

Versalka, ul. Bohaterów Monte Casino 63, tel. (+48) 602 63 66 37, www.versalka.pl ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 20-30zł. Available at Versalka (Open 09:00 - 24:00) and before the concert.

Wroclaw

12.05 Thursday - Ethno Jazz Festival - Ana Moura

The White Stork Synagogue, ul. Włodkowica 5, tel. (+48) 71 782 81 23, www.ethnojazz.pl ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 50-120zł. Available at Empik, Rynek 50 (Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 12:00 - 21:00).

Poznan

09.05 Monday - Beatsteaks

Eskulap, Przybyszewskiego 39 (Grunwald), tel. (+48) 42 684 20 95 ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 39zł. Available at Cultural Information Centre, ul. Ratajczaka 44 (Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun).

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Krakow

09.05 Monday - 15.05 Sunday

Czesław Miłosz Festival

tel. (+48) 12 433 70 40, www.milosz365.pl

This festival, inaugurated in Kraków 5 years after Miłosz's death, is now in its 2nd edition. If you don't know, Czesław Miłosz was a Polish poet, prose writer, diplomat and translator who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1980. During the festival the city of Kraków welcomes authors from different countries and of different generations - including other Noble laureates. There will be poetry evenings, panel discussions, movie projections and a series of additional events. The plan is to organise one edition every two years, every edition having its title and main theme related to one of Miłosz' works. So the first had title *The Captive Mind*, now on Miłosz' 100th birthday it's *Native Realm*. The subjects for discussion is the search for roots, retaining identity in multicultural Europe as well as dialogues of cultures and traditions. The guests include Bei Dao, Robert Faggen, John Gray and Andrei Khadanovic. ▶ Full schedule available www.milosz365.pl. Admission free.

13.05 Friday - 17.05 Tuesday

Juwenalia 2011 - University of Economics
University of Economics Campus, ul.
Rakowicka 27, tel. (+48) 12 642 87 00



The opening on 13th May is a student-only affair, but later we can all join in. On 15th May the Great Run with over 500 participants sets off from the Economics University, while on 17th there are concerts by Natural Dread Killaz, Abradab and around 21:00 Parov Stelar. Admission is free to all, but be sure to have some ID as the bouncers won't be letting people under 18 in.

Gdansk

12.05 Thursday - 13.05 Friday - 4FunFestival
Gdańsk, AWFIS Campus, ul. Kazimierza Górskiego 1 (Oliwa)



Nothing changes for the Gdańsk Juwenalia, you'd think that they might notice other cities hiring top names, but not Gdańsk. It is a joint affair with the organising shared

between 4 institutions: Gdańsk Physical Education and Sport Academy, Sopot School of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Fine Arts Academy and the Academy Of Music in Gdańsk and they have invited Mrozu, Bracia, Robert M, Kumka Olik and Ocean. Besides the concerts the AWF campus will host skim-boarding championships on a 30x4m track and an arm-wrestling contest, hmmm... ▶ Admission free.

09.05 Monday - 15.05 Sunday - Technikalia

Technikalia starts with a huge barbecue party at the student dorm campus on ul. Wyspiańskiego, (09.05, 12:00) with local bands providing the tunes. Most events are reserved for students of the Technical University, Poly to old-timers like me, but the last two days feature some interesting concerts. Visit Gdańsk University of Technology campus, Al. Zwycięstwa 12-13 on Saturday 14.05 at 17:00 to hear Vavamuffin, Eastwest Rockers, L.U.C. and YT - it's a grand old building and worth the trip by itself. The following day in the Kwadrat Club, ul. Siedlicka 4, there's concert by hip-hopper Fokus and after-party that will last till morning. ▶ Admission free.

Warsaw

07.05 Saturday - Medykalia
ul. Fińska (Ochota), tel. (+48) 602 63 66 37

No surprise that the Medykalia are organised by students of the Medical University of Warsaw. For this year there's a new venue on the open ground between ul. Fińska and ul. Leszowa. Farben Lehre, Cała Góra Barwników, Raggafaya and Akurat make up the line-up and the after-party will go on till 4.00.

Warsaw

07.05 Saturday - Multimedia Fountain Park Opening
I Dywizji Panczernej Square, tel. (+48) 602 63 66 37

Tourists and residents of Warsaw looking for something a bit different are in for a real treat this Saturday with the 'Magic of Elements' ('Magia Żywiołów') show opening a complex of fountains on I Dywizji Panczernej Square. With a host of dancers and acrobats, the show is based upon four key elements; light, sound, fire and water and will feature stunning displays projected into the night sky. ▶ Event starts at 21:00. Admission free.

Wroclaw

10.05 Tuesday - 12.05 Thursday - Wittigalia
Wittigoto Campus, ul. Edwadra Wittiga (Dąbie), tel. (+48) 71 782 81 23, www.juwenalia.org

Lots of studenty goings on here with a concert, charity events, sporting activities and much more. On 10th May from 16:00 there will be a DJ event featuring Robert M, Dj Micro, Projekt P.I.W.O. The following day from 16:00 enjoy an Irish dance performance with Kumka Olik and Hurt. The final day from 15:00 there will be a concert featuring Rahim, L.U.C., Pablo Pavo and Blenders. ▶ Admission free.

07.05 Saturday - 08.05 Sunday
Wroclaw Fine Beer Festival

Castle Cultural Centre, Pl. Świętojański 1 (Fabryczna), tel. (+48) 71 397 02 06, www.festiwaldobregopiwa.pl

As we all know the Poles like their beer with per capita consumption more than 90l a year. Most of the market (80%) belongs to the major breweries, but this festival is about meeting lesser known brands, often from small local breweries from Poland and abroad. Come and found out about the history of beer, its varieties and how it goes with different types of food. On the first day from 14:00 to 19:00 there's also the chance to take part in home brew beer making workshops. You don't have to sign up, just turn up and get stuck in. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. Admission free.

Polish Cup runs over

In possibly the most irrelevant result of the year, Legia Warszawa won the Polish Cup, beating Lech Poznan on penalties in a match that will only be remembered for the hooligan excesses that followed. On the pitch, the spectacle was fairly forgettable, the two floundering teams delivering a 1-1 draw over 120 minutes. It says everything about the season the teams are enduring that it's highly likely neither manager – Bakero or Skorza, will be in their current jobs at the start of next season.

The match started slowly, both sides trying above all not to make mistakes, Lech slightly the more adventurous side. This bore fruit just before the half hour, Dimitry Injac scoring a belter from 30m. Rafal Murawski came close to doubling the lead almost immediately after as Lech enjoyed their best spell of the match.

Things evened out after the break, Legia making more of an effort in the opposing half, but it was still the Poznan side that looked more dangerous, Rudnevs sending a shot inches over the bar. It was apt, then, the the Legia goal should have as much to do with accident as design – a Manu shot beating Kotorowski from 25m after taking a wicked deflection.

The pace of the game picked up after that and in the 89th minute Manu almost sealed

it for Legia. Rounding Kotorowski he shot at the open net, but Hubert Wolakiewicz covered well, hitting the ball out for a corner.

Extra time brought no more goals, despite both sides going close - Kielb struck the crossbar from distance, Mikolajczak missed a one-on-one. So it came down to penalties. Veteran defender Bartosz Bosacki missed the first, Skaba guessing correctly to make the save. After that, the following nine spot kicks all found their mark, giving Legia the cup 5-4. Cue pandemonium.

After the match, without a hint of irony, Lech manager Jose Maria Bakero stated, "I'd like to thank the fans who created such a great backdrop. Unfortunately, the result is a disappointment, because we tried to play football, but our opponents won. I think our play in the first half was phenomenal, but we couldn't take our chances."

Maciej Skorza for Legia was equally blasé, "Enormous delight at winning the trophy because we started the match poorly. The most important thing is we managed to get the equaliser... and Skaba had a great game in goal." Victory in the Polish Cup means Legia, and their fans, will be travelling across Europe next season.

Poland v France - tickets sky high

The Polish FA has announced a steep increase in ticket prices for the upcoming friendly against France, due to take place in the PGE Arena, Gdansk on June 9. Construction work is still underway at the stadium, but, following a spot check, FA chiefs Lato and Krecina confirmed the match would go ahead. "I'm amazed at the tempo of the work. It's all going very efficiently and I'm certain that by June 9 it will all be ready. I also have the assurances of the city authorities," Lato told reporters.

However, there are already grumblings concerning the ticket pricing for the match, based on the prices for Euro 2012 matches. Almost half the tickets, those in the best locations along the sides of the pitch, will cost a whopping PLN 240. FA chief Grzegorz Lato was adamant, though, "We're through with cheap tickets, because they've been nothing but trouble. Now they'll be more expensive because we want whole families to come, for whom we're preparing special packages."

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SPORT BRIEFS

Learning from Lehmann

While many people may have been wondering at the wisdom of bringing 41-year-old Jens Lehmann back for a spell at Arsenal, one man who is making the most of the decision is Wojciech Szczesny. The young Pole is delighted to be able to work with a keeper famous for his eccentricities and bad relations with other keepers. "He goes over each match with me in detail. He often takes me aside for individual exercises during training. He's given me loads of advice. It's not about big things, I don't make that many mistakes, but he spots the details

and thanks to his experience he can help me a lot. I'm really grateful for it," Szczesny told Przegląd Sportowy.

Lewy seals the championship.

Robert Lewandowski scored the goal that sealed the Bundesliga championship for Borussia Dortmund in his first season at the club. In the 43rd minute he cleverly lured his opposing defender towards a looping ball over the top, before spinning off his man and finishing with a delicate lob over the advancing keeper. It was the eighth goal of the season for a striker who has

enjoyed a stuttering start to his career abroad.

"I wasn't upset by stupid comments or criticism. I was prepared for it. In the German media I was Borussia's worst transfer one day, only to be one of the best strikers in the Bundesliga the next. I'm used to it that to go from one extreme to the other here is a small step." As for the coming season, Lewandowski is already looking forward to it. "There are going to be some great matches - Inter, Barcelona, Real. We're sure to be drawn against a top team. Personally, I'm dreaming of playing against Madrid, that's something I've wanted for years."

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Professional Polish teacher will teach you Polish in exchange of French lessons.

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Native English speaker needed

I am looking for English Native Speaker. My English is ok ;) but I need to improve my Business English. I can teach you Polish.

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Mercedes 280CDI 2006 4matic for sale in Warsaw 119,000km ELEGANCE version, extras: GPS, Xenon, Bluetooth, 5 CD, DVD player, 76,000pln
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Pictures and webpage in return

As a webmaster of a Dutch forum about Poland and an information portal I'm looking for good pictures of Poland. In return I'll offer you a page on www.bigos.nl where you can promote your business for free

Contact: jaap@polen-forum.nl / www.bigos.nl / www.polen-forum.nl / www.lviv.nl

Amateur Theatre in English

New Warsaw amateur theatre group forming. Actors, producers, directors and others wanted.

No experience needed. For more details Contact: Michael at moikenny@me.com

Community Groups: Place free listings for your community groups here. Email editor@newpolandexpress.pl

The Sikh Community

The Sikh Community of Warsaw meets each Sunday at the Sikh Gurudwara in Rashyn, Ul Na Skraju 56. All are welcome. Kirtan starts at midday and langar is served after the Bhog at about 1400. For more information contact 22 868 4541. The Sikh faith is about equality, honesty and standing up to oppression. Anyone visiting the Guru's house is welcome, in return for due respect and consideration of the Sikh faith.

Role Playing Game in Warsaw

International English-speaking group in Warsaw, mostly foreign professionals, play tabletop Dungeons & Dragons fortnightly. No experience necessary but fluent English proficiency is required. Have a good time. Play some games. Meet new friends. Open your imagination. More info: Facebook group: <http://tiny.cc/zaffa> or [CreativeCowboy\[at\]yahoo\[dot\]com](mailto:CreativeCowboy[at]yahoo[dot]com)

Poland Tartan Army

A new Poland Tartan Army Facebook group has been created. If you are a fan of Scottish football and our national team please join the group by visiting Facebook and conducting a search for Poland Tartan Army. If anyone, who is not a part of Facebook, is interested in this idea then please email murraymaw@hotmail.com to register your interest.

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

We are a Polish and Expat social group who organise a walk/run in a forest, park or around the city, followed by a few beers (or whatever takes your fancy!). We meet at the Marriott hotel on alternate Saturdays at 2pm. "Hash House Harriers" is an international group, which was originally established in Malaysia 70 years ago. All are welcome. For details, call Martin at 502-052-958. Email warsawh3@gmail.com or www.warsawhash.pl

International Women's Group

Meetings are held twice a month on the SECOND Monday at 10.30 (for location see our newsletter or website) and on the FOURTH Monday of the month at Restauracja Tapa y Toro located in the Zlote Tarasy Shopping Mall (ul. Zlota 59) from 10:00 - 11:00. For more information see www.iwgwarsaw.eu or contact us at iwgwarsaw@yahoo.com

International Rotary Club

International Rotary Club - Warszawa Wilanow is the only English speaking Rotary Club in Warsaw. Visiting Rotarians are warmly welcomed to join the weekly meetings held at the Polonia Palace Hotel, Al. Jerozolimskie 45. Tuesday's at 12:00, except the last Tuesday of each month when the meeting is at 19:00. For more information: +48 601 897 731

Gospel Baptist Church

Services are held in Polish and English languages: Sun. 11:00, Thurs. 19:00. For more information contact: Pastor Paul Sock, mob. 0500-270-990, e-mail: paulesock@yahoo.com www.gbc-ekb.com.

GAA in Warsaw

Cumann Warszawa. Poland's first and only GAA club is up and running and is looking for players of all levels, all nationalities and both sexes. We offer weekly training, competitive games and regular social events as well as fresh oranges at half time. Contact Eoin at 0518-425-587 or cumannwarszawa@gmail.com

Expat meetings

Meeting English speakers in Warsaw just got a whole load easier. We don't teach you Salsa, we make you pay for your own drinks, but we do promise to give you the premier multi-cultural event of the week at Warsaw's very own Professional Wednesday Meetup.

Contact - asamu@sniper-rook.co.uk or 691535566

Toastmasters club

Toastmasters club (Polska) invites all to its weekly meetings. Toastmasters is the international organization for learning the art of public speaking and enhancing leadership skills. Meetings every Wednesday at 19.00 at the Palace of Culture 12th floor (premises of Collegium Civitas) - entrance from ul. Marszałkowska side. For more details visit www.toastmasters.org.pl or call Etan at 696-292-451

Poznan International Church

Every Sunday at 10:00
Contact details: www.international.pl. It's simple at P.I.C.. Come and experience God through current music and relevant teaching. Grow in your relationship with God and others by making friends and joining a small group. Serve God and people by being generous with the gifts God has given you. Go and make a difference in the world by sharing the love of Christ.

CFM (Christian Fellowship Ministries)

Kościół Chrześcijański (evangelical/Pentecostal)
Location: Aleja Prymasa Tysiąclecia 74B (Wola, Warsaw)
Services in Polish and English:
Wednesday 19.30 hrs and Sunday 11.00 & 18.30 hrs
Every Saturday evening at 20.00 hrs: Film, Concert & Drama or other activities
Website: www.thedoor.pl
Phone: 784 653 666 (Pastor Jan-Willem van Dam)
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heading of no more
than 30 characters

Place your
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