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Polish News  
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# The New Poland Express

Friday 10th May 2013 Issue 18 (218)

## Swede sues hospital for PLN 6 million

### Four staff face criminal charges

The family of a Swedish woman left in a coma after undergoing a breast enlargement operation in Gdansk in 2010 has launched a civil action against the hospital involved.

The family of 34-year-old Christina Hedlund are seeking PLN 6 million to help cover the costs of caring for their daughter who remains in a vegetative state and is unable to live independently. If they are successful the award would be the highest amount of compensation ever paid out by a Polish hospital.

The amount needed to cover the cost of Ms. Hedlund's care has been estimated at 36,000SEK (approximately PLN18,000) per month while Ms. Hedlund's disability allowance only amounts to 7,000SEK (PLN 3,500).

"This is money that she will have for the future, for the rest of her life. This sum will provide the best rehabilitation, as is possible with such a brain injury" said Ann-Katrin Berggren, Christina Hedlund's mother, who arrived at the Gdansk court on Tuesday. She said that she had told her daughter that she will fight for it.

Dariusz Kostrzewa, the director of the Pomeranian Trauma Centre, said that the hospital wants to know the current status of the patient, "for which there is some disagreement."



Christina Hedlund fell into a coma during a breast enlargement operation in 2010

"We want to know the source of the amounts that are listed in the lawsuit, and possibly comment on them. Of course, if the court finally decides on the payment of compensation, then of course we will submit to it" he said.

The [surgery took place in Gdansk in 2010](#) and was subsequently discovered to have been one of 78 operations carried out over the period 2008-10 for which the hospital did not have the necessary permits to carry out. It was reported at the time that Ms. Hedlund's fiancé who had accompanied her on the trip had said she had still not woken up six hours after the surgery.

Charges were brought this week against the hospital's director Leszek K. who is accused of the unpremeditated exposure of a patient's life and health to danger, while in April an anaesthetist and two nurses were charged with Grievous Bodily Harm in relation to the same case. The nurses face up to three years in prison if found guilty of negligence after investigators claimed that they had stopped continuous monitoring of the patient's vital signs and had been slow to respond once they realised there was a problem. It is believed that the brain damage to Ms. Hedlund was caused by prolonged hypoxia which was the result of a temporary heart attack.

### NATIONAL

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#### Axeman attacks Wawel tourists

A man was held on Wednesday morning after driving his car up to Wawel Cathedral in Krakow and threatening tourists there with an axe.

It has been reported that the man shouted that Wawel was his and that he did not want any strangers there. He was eventually subdued by palace security and arrested by police.

### REGIONAL

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#### Metro nearly a year late

Warsaw City Hall has finally admitted that the second underground line currently under construction is behind schedule by a whopping 337 days.

The latest information suggests the line will be completed by September 2014. This Tuesday officials signed an agreement with the main contractor, AGP Metro, extending the deadline.

### BUSINESS

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#### Bankruptcy affecting business

New figures released by Euler Hermes Collections state that the number of Polish firms going bankrupt is currently on the increase.

According to the data, a total of 88 companies went out of business in April - 22 percent more than the same time last year - and as a result approximately 4,200 employees were made redundant.

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## From the editor



After a short break so we could all enjoy Majówka in style, we knew we'd be sifting through piles of stories this week deciding frantically which

ones to pick.

Due to having to cram in two weeks of news into one edition, a story that might normally have made it into the main list was put into 'Briefs' and another one dropped altogether. The odd thing is that both are linked to graffiti.

The first concerns the Trawniki concentration camp murals which were defaced by mindless yobs after being painted by youngsters from the area. Former prisoner Joseph Richter's pieces of art - which the murals depicted - are some of the only known documents to have survived from the camp and as such play an important role in educating people to the atrocities that went on there. In terms of stories, it's extremely depressing on a number of levels which I don't really need to point out.

The second story, which we didn't use, is the [plaque outside Robert Biedron's office](#) being sprayed with the word 'Pedała' - or 'fag'. The MP says it's happened a few times now and this time he's had enough and will just leave it there.

While it's hard to disagree with his comment that "these hooligans go unpunished so the acts are repeated", it's also quite sad to think the only way to stop this minority from acting is through fear of being caught.

Homosexuality is hardly welcomed with open arms in Poland and I can't help but feel this attack could have been better used by Biedron and his colleagues to bring this depressing fact to the attention of the public.

It wouldn't have solved the problem overnight, but it would have helped - even in just a small way - and is surely an opportunity missed.

## Quotes of the week

"We want to work for everybody (...) for all those who want to live normally, in accordance with their beliefs and consciousness." Ryszard Kalisz talks about his new 'Poland - Home to All' association. (See briefs for the article)

"If as you say that this was an attack, then someone must have done it. Not gnomes, not Martians. Either Russians, or Poles, or Russians and Poles together" Journalist Monika Olejnik demands PiS MP Joachim Brudziński clarify who exactly he thinks murdered President Kaczynski at Smolensk.

"When I looked into Gowin's eyes I had the impression that he was somewhere else" PM Donald Tusk explains how he felt the time was right to replace Mr Gowin as Justice Minister.

## Have Your Say

If I may, I'd like to stick in my two cents (or groszy if you prefer) in on Philip Palmer's letter that appeared in 26 April edition of the NPE. In my opinion, the quote, "Poles suffered the most in war" is absolutely correct when compared to the devastation wreaked by Nazi Germany in all of Europe. Every major city was flattened by as much 85% and 6 million of its citizens were killed (roughly 3 million Polish gentiles and 3 million Polish Jews). I don't think that the statement has any negative connotation either. I've observed that, at least here in the States, Jews simply refer to themselves as "Jews", without any hyphenated distinction such as "Polish-Jews". They, or their ancestors, may have come from Poland but this seems to be secondary - being Jewish is more important. It also seems to me that it's mostly non-Jews who use the term "Polish-Jews" or "Hungarian-Jews" for example, especially when discussing the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Tony Miller, Dover, Delaware, USA

Send comments and letters to  
[editor@newpolandexpress.pl](mailto:editor@newpolandexpress.pl)

## This week in history

**1943 (16.05)** - German SS troops demolish Warsaw's Great Synagogue. Located on Tlomackie Street, the synagogue was built between 1875-1878 but was not rebuilt after the war.

**1955 (11.05)** - Polish painter Jerzy Kossak dies. Born in Krakow in 1886, Kossak specialised in mainly military and war scenes and came from a family of famed artists and writers.

**1983 (12.05)** - Eighteen-year-old Grzegorz Przemyski is arrested and beaten by the Civic Militia (Milicja Obywatelska) on Warsaw's Castle Square whilst celebrating his graduation. He died two days later as a result of his injuries.

## The NPE weekend QUIZ



What better way to bounce back after the Majówka hols than with a bit of quality culture? Well luckily we have just the thing... The Human Body Exhibition is currently in Krakow and we've got one double invitation to give away.

Featuring over 200 organs and bodies that have been preserved throughout the years, this display is definitely not for the faint hearted. Fascinating? Check. Informative? Check. A tad macabre? Check again.

It's taking place in the city's Fabryka Club and if it sounds like something you'd be interesting in seeing, all you've got to do is tell us the club's address.

As always, send those answers to:  
[editor@newpolandexpress.pl](mailto:editor@newpolandexpress.pl)

## Farm funds recalled

Poland has been told it must pay back EUR 79.9 mln worth of farm subsidies to the European Commission due to problems with the applications.

The subsidies were dealt out between 2004-2010 by the European Union's Agricultural Fund, but it now appears that some of the funds may have been ended up with people who don't qualify for them.

In a statement, the EC says that the farmers are not to blame for the errors, but rather the administration and Polish government.

The Democratic Left Alliance's (SLD) Wojciech Olejniczak, Minister of Agriculture between 2003-2005, says that Poland must fight its corner. "We have to appeal. The punishment is over the top," he told journalists last weekend.

"The Commission alleges that between 2007-2010 there was not enough control, but this is when Donald Tusk was Prime Minister (...) I prepared the regulations that were implemented. They are compatible with EU law, and were signed after being certified by the EC."

Current member and former head of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek told TVN24 that such major decisions are not uncommon and "happen in other countries like Spain, France and even Germany".

"These penalties and reimbursement proposals are fairly simple and very much a normal thing within the EU."

## Axeman attacks Wawel tourists

A man was held on Wednesday morning after driving his car up to Wawel Cathedral in Krakow and threatening tourists there with an axe.

It has been reported that the man shouted that Wawel was his and that he did not want any strangers there. He was eventually subdued by palace security and arrested by police.

The Wawel is a historic fortified complex of buildings including a castle and cathedral located on a hill overlooking the city of Krakow and is one of Poland's most visited tourist attractions. The crypt of the cathedral is the resting place of many Polish kings and queens as well as the inter-war leader Marshall Jozef Pilsudski and President Lech Kaczynski and his wife Maria who died in the Smolensk plane crash. At the time of the incident there were already many people in and around the complex.

Dariusz Nowak of Malopolska police told reporters that the man, who has been named as 48-year old Grzegorz S. from the adjacent Krakow district of Kazimierz, attempted to drive his black Seat car up the slope from ul. Kanoniczna through the Coat of Arms Gate (Brama Herbowa) of the castle. It appears that the man may have been set on entering the internal courtyard of Wawel Castle but the crowds of people forced him to stop. He is reported to have climbed from his car and threatened them with an axe to move out of his way at which point his attention was drawn by a priest.

Wawel security guards moved in to detain him and the man jumped back into his car and attempted to drive at them.

"He jumped into the car and tried to kill the guards, so they started shooting" officer Nowak added.

Two shots were fired, one into the air and the second at the car's front tyre, yet Grzegorz S still appears to have made it into the arcaded inner courtyard of the castle on foot where he was finally overpowered by police. Nobody is reported to have been hurt. The site was secured and cleared of visitors although by the afternoon the tourists had been allowed to return where the only evidence of the morning's incident was the peculiar site of the attacker's Seat cordoned off by police tape outside the cathedral.

TVN24 reported that Grzegorz S. claimed that he was Sobieski (ed. Jan III Sobieski, King of Poland 1674-1696) and that Wawel was his home. They reported that he did not want strangers in his home which is why he attacked.

On Friday the man was remanded in custody for two months and was undergoing psychiatric tests. Investigations by reporters from TVN24 suggested the man was divorced and had lost his job. It was also reported that he was heavily in debt after losing his business in the late nineties and had been involved in a number of legal battles with courts and insurance companies.

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## Hero cop saves kids

A police officer has been praised and given an award by PKP rail services after helping to save a potentially fatal train crash back in April.

The incident, which took place in northern town of Lebork, was [captured on CCTV](#) and involved highway patrol officer Marcin Majchrzak helping to free a bus full of children caught on rail tracks.

The bus became stuck when the barrier, designed to stop vehicles from crossing the tracks, came down and smashed into its window, preventing the driver from being able to move forward. Majchrzak then approached the bus and pulled the

barrier loose, enabling the driver to move the vehicle just before a train hurtled past.

The officer has since been awarded a certificate for his bravery and a voucher for PKP Intercity trains. "He acted perfectly and we wish to show our appreciation," says Leszek Lewiński, Deputy Director of PKP PLK in Gdynia.

However Majchrzak has played down his role, telling TVN he was merely fulfilling his duties. "If it happened again, I'd do exactly the same. I'm just glad to have helped people."

The driver has since been fined PLN 250 and given six penalty points. The case will also go to court and he could potentially face three years in prison.

## Tusk fires Gowin as Justice Minister

Prime Minister Donald Tusk has replaced Jaroslaw Gowin as Justice Minister following controversial comments Mr. Gowin made about embryos likely being exported to Germany to be used in scientific experiments.

"I do not have the time, once a week, to explain the comments of the minister and the overly politicised issues he is involved with" Mr Tusk told reporters.

Mr. Tusk met personally with Mr Gowin to inform him of his decision and described the conversation as short and serious but warm considering the circumstances. He said that he had warned Mr. Gowin about the need to

be careful with some of his public statements before such as when Mr Gowin had questioned publicly in the Sejm the constitutionality of civil partnership legislation. TVN24 reported that Mr Gowin was unable to maintain discipline in Mr. Tusk's opinion.

It has been suggested that Mr. Tusk and Mr. Gowin are possibly preparing to face each other in an election for leadership of Civic Platform (PO) and that Mr. Tusk is attempting to divide the opposition to his leadership in the party by ensuring he will face two opponents (Grzegorz Schetyna being the other) rather than one.

Mr Gowin has been replaced as Justice Minister by Marek Biernacki.

### IN BRIEF

#### Kalisz back in the game

Former Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) politician Ryszard Kalisz has launched a new association which will help aid the 2014 European Union parliamentary election list.

According to Rzeczpospolita, 'Poland - Home to All' ('Dom Wszystkich - Polska') wants to support minorities who may be excluded on grounds such as race or sexuality.

Mr Kalisz, [recently expelled from SLD](#), says the association itself will not be putting any names forward for the list.

#### WWII mural vandalised

A mural commemorating the artwork drawn by Joseph Richter - a prisoner at Trawniki concentration camp - has been vandalised in the small village of the same name.

The work, completed recently by local kids, [was covered with white paint and two red stars](#), reports Gazeta Wyborcza.

"We have informed the police about the damage to property and the incitement of racial hatred," says Piotr Sewruk, co-founder of the Trawniki Initiatives Association which helped organise the project.

#### Youngsters use more drugs

A new study has shown that an increasing number of kids are turning to drink and drugs.

The data, compiled by the Department of Education and the Centre for Addiction Therapy, says that one in three high school students smoke and that 13 is the average age that children start to drink.

It also states that drugs are becoming more popular, with one in ten high school students claiming to have tried them.

# THE HUMAN BODY EXHIBITION



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## WITHOUT RHYME OR REGION



Tusk and PO have been in power for what seems a long time now. It's understandable that people are tired, and a change can be as good as a rest. But what choices are there? SLD under Miller are unelectable, Palikot and PSL are sideshows and the various post-PiS conglomerations are irrelevant. That only leaves PiS.

One very convincing reason why PiS should never be allowed to get their grubby

hands on power ever again was exposed two Fridays ago, when Beata Sawicka was found not guilty of corruption.

The judge's summing up in this case was absolutely damning, and it's hard to believe that the main players, from Kaczynski to Ziobro, to Kaminski and "Agent Tomek", have all managed to get away scot free from what is possibly one of the most shameful episodes in recent Polish history.

Judge Pawel Rysinski explained it thus, "The question arises of whether the CBA had prior reason to investigate her [Sawicka], and if the CBA has the right to investigate whoever they wish, even though there is no suspicion, not even a hint, that

they will commit a crime in the future."

He then answered his own question. "The democratic rule of law excludes the testing of a citizen's honesty. That is the domain of a totalitarian state."

Poland under PiS were heading towards the situation where the secret services were actively going out and trying to criminalise people, then destroying them with video press conferences before they've even had a chance to stand trial. Thankfully, the judges here realise that there is a difference between being corrupt, and being corrupted.

Beata Sawicka's political career is over. If only we could say the same for those responsible for ending it.

## MAZOWIECKIE

### Metro nearly a year late



Warsaw City Hall has finally admitted that the second underground line currently under construction is behind schedule by a whopping 337 days. The latest information suggests the line will be completed by September 2014. This Tuesday officials signed an agreement with the main contractor, AGP Metro, extending the deadline.

The agreement means the construction will come in eleven months late. Until recently the authorities have maintained that the original deadline of October 2013 would be kept. A statement gave a variety of reasons for the delay.

"There has been a total of 450 UXBs found along the route. Also historic objects

found along the route have slowed things down. The largest unmapped object found was the foundations of a factory from 1913 near Rondo Daszynskiego, which stopped work for 22 days," explained an official.

Other causes of delays listed include unmarked mains and utilities and delays in handing over land. "The problem which caused the greatest delay was unmapped underground utilities. The fact that they didn't show on the maps led to extra, unplanned design work as well as seeking the cooperation of various utility operators," read a statement from Warsaw City Hall.

Meanwhile, the authorities in Bemowo decided not to bother waiting for the constructors to reach them and [opened their metro station this week](#), despite the fact that there's nothing there. The "station" in question is a 3-D painting on the pavement showing steps leading down to a waiting train, and which took all of 26 hours to "construct".

More than being a mere decoration, though, the painting is an appeal by the district's

authorities regarding the future of the second Metro line, which is currently mired in planning controversies connected with environmental and spatial planning issues.

### 400m champions

Warsaw police arrested three men this Thursday in connection with the mugging of a taxi driver at gunpoint. All three were caught drinking beer in woods a mere 400m away from the scene of the incident.

The taxi driver was called to a roadside bar in Janki. Three men climbed in and asked him to drive to a car park near woods. When they arrived there, they pulled a gun out and stole money and a tablet computer from the driver.

Police from Pruszkow were called to the scene and the taxi driver showed them the direction the men escaped in. It turned out that they were enjoying a beer only 400m metres away.

Marcin Z., Marcin P. and Marcin W. have all been charged with robbery and face up to three years in prison.

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## MALOPOLSKIE

## Bogus copper conundrum



Krakow police are trying to get to the bottom of a strange incident this week in which two men were lured to a remote location then robbed of their cash

and a car and left tied up in the middle of nowhere.

"It all started from a meeting arranged for reasons which are not yet clear. One of those arranging the meeting said he couldn't speak in town and suggested they go somewhere outside the city," related Dariusz Nowak for Krakow police.

The three men drove in two cars to woods near Dziekanowice, where a surprise was in store. "Suddenly a car with sirens on, looking like a police vehicle, appeared. Three men jumped out dressed as police officers, with balaclavas and what looked like pistols. They dragged the victims out of their car, pinned them to the ground and tied them up," continued Nowak. They searched the men, took a thousand zloty in cash from one of them and a mobile phone.

They ordered the men to wait for another police vehicle to come and pick them up, then sped off, taking one of the men's cars. Soon after, the man who had set up the meeting also fled the scene. Then the two men left lying on the ground realised they'd been set up.

"The real police then went into action and tracked the stolen vehicle to a garage, where it had already been partially broken up for parts," said Nowak.

Four men were arrested and two more are being looked for. The pistols the men used turned out to be pellet guns. Regardless, they have been charged with theft and assault with a dangerous weapon, for which they face up to three years in prison.

## Bear scare

Two men were attacked by a bear in Tatras last Sunday, leaving one of them seriously injured. "It attacked because they entered its territory and it felt threatened," suggested park director Pawel Skawinski. A 43-year-old man was bitten on the leg and arm, while his associate let off two shots from a pistol, at which the animal fled into the trees.

"From the men's statement it appears that the bear lost a lot of blood from one of the shots. The injury may be fatal to it," commented Skawinski. The injured man was taken to Poprad in Slovakia, where he was operated on. There are suspicions that the men may have been poaching at the time of the attack.

## POMORSKIE

## CCTV hit and run



A 65-year-old cyclist was hit and seriously injured by a driver, who then spent the next twelve hours hiding from police. [CCTV cameras captured](#)

[the entire incident](#), which took place in Bytow this Monday morning. The images enabled officers to identify the driver and they soon located the vehicle, but the culprit was missing.

"We were looking for him all Monday. We spoke to his family, friends, we explained that it made no sense for him to keep hiding. At 3am on Tuesday he handed himself in at the police station. He is a 31-year-old Bytow resident. He claims he was in shock, and that's why he didn't stop. He's currently in custody in a police cell and has been charged with causing an accident and failing to stop, for which he faces twelve years in jail," commented Michal Gawronski for Bytow police.

## It's a wrap

Two adolescents were arrested this week after they broke into a shop and stole some sweets. In scenes like something out of a comic, officers spotted a trail of sweet wrappers and followed them right to the door of the perpetrators.

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The two males, aged 16 and 17, used a hacksaw to cut through bars to the grocery shop window near Ustka, making off with various goods, including alcohol and cigarettes, to a value of PLN 2,000.

Officers arriving at the scene, and the shop owner, soon spotted the various products and sweet wrappers discarded along the way. Police followed the litter all the way to the nearby flat where they found the young thieves with their illicit goods.

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## WIELKOPOLSKIE

## Cocaine with your parcel?



Officers from the Central Investigative Bureau (CBS) arrested eight members of an organised crime group that was dealing in almost every kind of drug, from cannabis to cocaine. The CBS picked up the men's trail thanks to a jovial parcel courier who was offering the people he delivered to extra deliveries of narcotics.

"In the last six months these men have brought almost twenty kilograms of narcotics onto the market. They dealt in large quantities of amphetamines, marihuana, mephedrone and cocaine," press officer Mariusz Sokolowski told reporters.

CBS officers were tipped off about the courier who was offering customers narcotics when delivering parcels. "Officers realised the courier-dealer had access almost any narcotic, including cocaine, and established that he had a direct connection to an important crime group," explained Sokolowski.

Police swooped on Wednesday, a special group of CBS officers assisted by Poznan police simultaneously raiding flats in the city. In one flat a gun and narcotics ready to be sold were seized.

The eight men arrested include men who are well-known to the police, associated with football hooligan groups. "Among those arrested was Karol K., known as Carlos, the King of Poznan station - a member of one of the most violent hooligan groups."

## Priest is no angel

Police from Ostrow Wielkopolska caught a priest with two [stolen figurines](#) of angels in the boot of his car this week. Marcin J., who was thrown out of the monastery in Wieruszow (Lodzkie) where the figures disappeared from several years ago, is suspected of trying to sell them via internet auction.

The find was a result of a routine patrol. Officers were stunned by the contents of the boot which they recognised from a list of suspicious objects offered for sale on the Internet. "We established that they came from the monastery in Wieruszow and passed the documentation on to officers there," said Artur Kurczaba for Ostrow police. Strangely, the figures were never reported missing by the monastery.

Marcin J. was fired from the monastery during a trial period for an apparently unrelated matter. He now faces a different trial, on charges of theft and handling stolen goods, for which he faces up to three years in prison.

## OPOLSKIE

## Checkout adder



A Tesco worker in a store in Chrzastowice got more than she bargained for when she was bitten by a viper hidden in boxes in the warehouse. The woman was taken to hospital for treatment and fire officers called to catch the animal, which is presumed to have slithered into the store from nearby fields.

Fire officers managed to catch the snake soon after, and, as it had been spotted in the warehouse and there was no danger of it coming into contact with the public, the store was not closed or evacuated.

Initially, nobody knew precisely what kind of snake had bitten the woman, only later did local vet, Jan Piskon, identify the

creature as the common European viper. It was about 60cm long. Piskon explained that the animal is only dangerous when it feels threatened and that its venom is only dangerous to children or the elderly. He added that he planned to release the animal in some old pits near Strzelec Opolski.

## Telephone hero

A cool, calm and collected police officer saved the life of a young boy this week, when the mother called the police in a panic. It was 9.30am on Monday when the woman called the station in Ozimek from her home in Debska Kuznia. [Mateusz Pruski](#), who took the call, told reporters, "She said her child had choked on food and was turning blue. I tried to calm her down, asked for the relevant details, explained roughly what she needed to do, to push the baby's head back and clear the airways and I dispatched an ambulance. I was just thinking of my own child and I really don't feel like a hero."

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## SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND from In Your Pocket

This week it's the turn of our Trojmiasto colleagues to contribute to our weekly column here and fresh from updating the late spring/early summer issue of Gdansk In Your Pocket, here are some of the new places up in Poland's summer capital – [Sopot](#). Don't forget you can find lots of information about what to do and see in the town online and the PDF of the brand new print guide is available to download [here](#).

With the winter dragging on for as long as we can ever remember, the arrival of spring has seen an explosion of activity in the Tri-city as businesses old and new get ready for their busiest period in the year. Sopot has been busy cleaning up the streets, refreshing the paintwork and dusting off the garden furniture and in the matter of a fortnight the place is barely recognisable to the cold and damp place it was well into April. Along with the arrival of Adam Gessler's [U Kucharzy](#) from Warsaw and the opening of a great little burger joint in a former toilet, Sopot has embraced the fad for [Polish Snacks and Shots](#) with four new places opening in the last couple of months alone. On top of that the former Papryka/Sioux (depending how long you've been coming here) has found a new tenant who has given the old place a new lease of life and in probably the most important news one of our favourites which closed earlier on in the year is on the verge of re-launching in the centre of town.

### [Szczśliwego Nowego Jorku](#)

Taking the name of a highly recommended film about Polish immigrants in New York (playing on the Polish for 'Happy New Year') we were starting to become a little tired with the explosion of cheap shots and snacks fad until we rolled in here. The friendly father and son team that run the place have created a more upmarket version while keeping prices low (although the beers do come in 0.33ltr glasses) which has attracted a more mature and relaxed crowd than some of its competitors. Drink and eat like a stereotypical Poles yards away from two of the city's top hotels with Sopot's oldest church next door if you need mass after a long Saturday night.

### [Sempre](#)

The spring has seen not one Sempre open in Sopot but two. Expanding northwards from their base in Gdansk, Sempre have moved into one of the city's landmark buildings casting a magic spell over the multi-levelled detached villa which once housed one of the country's most famous clubs. The results are a much cleaner look (some might suggest sterile) featuring the chain's trademark black and white flooring and simple furnishings in which you can enjoy their choice of very good pizza (although no pasta despite the name). Realistic pricing, particularly on the house wines, mean we'll be going back despite the waiter being a complete clown

who managed to check off at least half of our 'Service Nightmares' list. Expect the wonderful garden to be packed to the rafters throughout the summer and autumn. You'll also find them at ul. Bohaterów Monte Cassino 49

### [3 Siostry](#)

It would not be unfair to describe 3 Sisters as a Sopot legend, so when they announced they were closing their place on ul. Grunwaldzka in February of 2013, many thought it was the end of an era. But it seems the ladies (it's owned and run by 3 sisters hence the name) were just taking a breather as they are due to re-launch right in the centre of town next Thursday. Their new place located in the Sheraton Conference Centre building was having the final licks of paint applied as we walked past and while the place seems small, it is easy to forget that the old place wasn't exactly spacious but that never stopped a noisy crowd of friends and strangers mixing and mingling long after legs, brains and mouths had stopped working properly. Whether the ladies can recreate the atmosphere here remains to be seen as part of the old venue's attraction was that it was a peculiar little space in which a succession of restaurants had failed before and although close to the centre, was just far enough away that its client base were those who knew about it and loved it. We're delighted to see it back and are looking forward to next weekend to give it a try out.



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## Krakow

**16.05 Thursday - 19.05 Sunday**

### Czesław Miłosz Festival

tel. (+48) 602 85 09 00, [www.milosz365.eu](http://www.milosz365.eu)

Czesław Miłosz is another national treasure - the poet, writer, and translator was awarded the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature, and is hugely respected and cherished in his native Poland. Past editions of the Miłosz Festival involved conferences, film screenings, translation workshops, poetry evenings, and concerts, and you can expect more of the same this year; the crowd will not be as homogeneously Polish as you might expect, as the hosts invite a score of international poets, writers, and scholars to join in on the action.

**12.05 Sunday**

### The Nutcracker and the Mouse King

Kraków Chamber Opera, ul. Miodowa 15, tel. (+48) 12 430 66 06, [www.kok.art.pl](http://www.kok.art.pl)

The Kraków Chamber Opera performs their musical version of the E.T.A. Hoffmann fairy tale that Tchaikovsky turned into the most popular ballet in the world. ▶ Event starts at 18:00. Tickets 40-100zł. Available at Kraków Chamber Opera box office (open 10:00 - 18:00; Sat, Sun depending on repertoire).

## Wroclaw

**10.05 Friday - 02.09 Monday**

### LUXUS Magazine

Wroclaw Contemporary Museum, Pl. Strzegomski 2a (Fabryczna), tel. (+48) 71 356 42 67, [www.muzeumwspolczesne.pl](http://www.muzeumwspolczesne.pl)

LUXUS was a legendary art group from Wroclaw that began in the 1980s. These subversives lived fast, loved hard and contested the gray reality of the decline of communism and the beginning of capitalism within Poland. They founded their own magazine to publish their various stencils, linocuts and scribbles. The group also offered up live installations and performances that are still memorable today. Now LUXUS is transforming their air-raid shelter into a museum of new and old works, archives, souvenirs and valuables to showcase their long history, which spans numerous decades of freedom-loving art. ▶ Open 12:00 - 20:00, Mon 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission 10/5zł, family ticket 15zł. Thu free.

## Wroclaw

**10.05 Friday - 12.05 Sunday**

### 4. Wroclaw Good Beer Festival

Castle Cultural Centre, Pl. Świętojański 1, tel. (+48) 71 397 02 06, [www.festiwaldobregopiwa.pl](http://www.festiwaldobregopiwa.pl)

While most of Poland loves beer (the average per capita consumption is more than 90l a year) it is also primarily dominated by a few major breweries. Explore the lesser known brewers and brands at the Good Beer Festival, which includes beers from throughout the country and abroad. Home brewers can take part in a workshop on the festival's first day, and professional appreciators can simply kick back and enjoy the suds. ▶ Full schedule available at [www.festiwaldobregopiwa.pl](http://www.festiwaldobregopiwa.pl). Admission free.

**11.05 Saturday - Beauty and the Beat - Tarja Turunen & Mike Terrana**

Orbita Hall, ul. Wejherowska 34, tel. (+48) 71 397 02 06, [www.daga.wroclaw.pl](http://www.daga.wroclaw.pl)

Nope, not a typo, this is actually the unique project of Tarja Turunen (known to some as the ex-vocalist from Nightwish), combining classic rock anthems with orchestral arrangements. Sharing the stage with her drummer Mike Terrana, and over 120 people from the Beethoven Academy Orchestra and Choir, Turunen and company will interweave classic compositions by Bach, Bizet, Dvorak, Mozart, Puccini, Rossini and Strauss with the popular rock hits by Led Zeppelin, Queen, and even some pop standards by Sinatra. ▶ Concert starts at 19:00. Tickets 180-320zł. Available at [www.ticketpro.pl](http://www.ticketpro.pl) and Empik (Rynek 50, open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 21:00).

## Katowice

**15.05 Wednesday**

### The Australian Pink Floyd Show

Spodek, Al. Korfantego 35

To mark the 40th anniversary of the release of "The Dark Side of Moon" the Pink Floyd show is coming back to Poland to give two shows, in Katowice and Poznań. This show is entitled "Eclipsed by the moon", expect the usual mixture of splendid visual and lighting effects. ▶ Event starts at 20:00. Tickets 115-330zł. Available at [www.ticketpro.pl](http://www.ticketpro.pl) and Empik, ul. Piotra Skargi 6 (Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00).

## Warsaw

**13.05 Monday - Bracia**

Hard Rock Cafe, ul. Złota 59 (Złote Tarasy), tel. (+48) 22 222 07 00, [www.hardrockcafe.pl](http://www.hardrockcafe.pl)



Brothers Piotr and Wojtek Cugowski (plural: Cugowscy) have a legacy to live up to - they're the sons of Krzysztof Cugowski, founder of

the rock band Budka Suflera, which put out some of the best Polish rock ballads since their start in 1974. At Hard Rock, they'll be performing acoustic versions of songs from their band, appropriately named Bracia (Brothers). ▶ Concert starts at 20:00. Tickets 29-39zł. Available at [www.ebilet.pl](http://www.ebilet.pl), Empik (ul. Złota 59, open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21:00) and before the concert.

**09.05 Thursday - 12.05 Sunday**

### New Jewish Music Festival

tel. (+48) 22 251 49 51,

[www.nowamuzykazydowska.pl](http://www.nowamuzykazydowska.pl)

The festival commences on May 9th with a concert led by Israeli jazz percussionist Oori Shalev at the Nożyk Synagogue (ul. Twarda 6). On May 10th and 11th there'll be concerts at Klub Palladium (ul. Złota 7/9), and on the last day the action moves to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (ul. Warecka 4/6). ▶ Full schedule available at [www.nowamuzykazydowska.pl](http://www.nowamuzykazydowska.pl). Concert at the Nożyk Synagogue is free. Remaining concerts cost 30zł/day.

**17.04 Wednesday - 16.05 Thursday**

### Window on the Other Side: The Warsaw Ghetto, 1939-1945

Fotoplastikon, Al. Jerozolimskie 51, tel. (+48) 22 629 60 78

Visiting the fotoplastikon is a charmingly quaint and old-fashioned past time, but now that the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising is here, it'll turn a bit more macabre. The newest exhibition will feature 48 stereoscopic 3D photos of the daily life of Warsaw Jews during WWII - certainly a unique insight into the tragedy that played out in the ghetto and a fascinating historical document. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 4/2zł. Sun free.

# Legia hold on to take Polish Cup



The past week was all about the Polish Cup final and the restoration of the tournament's prestige after years of perceived decline. Two full stadiums and a fantastic atmosphere in Wrocław and then in Warsaw proved that all the effort put in by the new board of PZPN with Zbigniew Boniek at the helm seems to have been worthwhile.

Last Thursday Slask met with Legia but all looked over after the first tie as two easy mistakes in the first half allowed Saganowski to clinch precious 2-0 away victory as hosts failed to create anything for the rest of the game. The decisive match had a great setting, despite the danger that local governor will close the famous "Zyleta" stand for the game – they were let in eventually as both sets of fans created one of the greatest atmospheres in recent times, despite unwelcomed and moronic behavior of twenty or so travelling "fans" who threw lit flares on the pitch and onto the home support.

Slask came without a striker but they had strong attacking intent and after only two minutes a mistake from Legia captain, Michal Zewlakow, saw him head the ball into his own net. That made the home side very nervous as the visitors ripped them with fine through passes, despite missing glorious chances with just Wojciech Skaba to beat. In fact, Legia were so poor that Jan

Urban decided to sub one of his central midfielders after only thirty minutes of play. The second half was more of the same and Piotr Cwielong hit the bar with a fine lob but "Wojskowi" survived the drama and to lift the trophy for the third time in a row.

They will, however, face even stronger pressure in the title race, as Lech, just nine days from their match, is showing more class and fluency, even if the narrow 1-0 win over Wisla was less convincing than their previous matches. Legia was as poor in their recent league game with Jakub Kosecki scoring the decisive goal after less than two minutes on the pitch.

Piast Gliwice strengthened their challenge for third place with a vital 2-1 win at Ruch Chorzow where late strikes from Tomasz Podgorski and Mateusz Matras kept them close to Slask Wrocław. The reigning champions needed eighty five minutes to produce their first and only shot on target through Piotr Cwielong but that was enough to beat struggling Pogon Szczecin.

Legia face a tricky away trip to Bialystok, while Lech hosts Widzew in the hope that when they meet in Warsaw next week, the hosts will be the ones chasing a much needed win. Lechia Gdansk play Ruch Chorzow and they desperately need a win in order to avoid becoming involved in any nervous relegation battle.

## WARSAW'S ASPIRATIONS LOOK BLEAK

From a country full of footballing mediocrity, acceptance of defeat and chaotic operation, perhaps the strongest attempt to stand out from the crowd came from the capital, Warsaw. With two big stadiums and two clubs in the Ekstraklasa – the only city derby left in the top division – the social factor of Poland's biggest city should not be missed. Warsaw is the place to look for a job, money and fame. It's the same in football.

The former Polonia Warszawa owner used to attract the biggest names because of the wages he was prepared to pay, while Legia had thousands of fans behind them and an exciting new stadium, with fame and a constant ambition to challenge for titles. Look at the record. This season may be only the second out of last five, when both Warsaw sides will not occupy the top half of the table.

This season looked as if the perception of the capital's aspiration would only grow. Polonia, despite their financial struggles, looked convincing on the pitch with fresh talent in players and coach. Legia reaped the first rewards from their impressive academy and a winter spending spree put them on the top of the title-chasers.

Sadly, recent events prove that not all is not so rosy in Warsaw. Polonia are failing miserably and will not gain a license for next season, despite completing the application, which claimed that a "huge" investor from Cameroon is ready to come in this summer. Legia's celebration of the Cup win ended in the city center early on Thursday early morning, when Danijel Ljuboja and Miroslav Radović bumped into club's chairman. Failing to even care about an explanation, all they did was to offer Bogusław Leśnodorski another drink.

What is more worrying for Legia though, is how they perform on the pitch not on the dance floor. They were so poor against Śląsk and so ineffective against Lechia that coach Jan Urban looked desperate not to harm his squad with a hint of critique. At the press conference post Cup win, he even apologized publicly to Janusz Gol who he subbed after 30 minutes of play – because he was playing that bad.

With the title beginning to slip out of their hands amid growing pressure from Lech, Legia may end their season in failure with the cup again a single consolation. Polonia, fans meanwhile are in tears over Ireneusz Król's tenure. Last year's Warsaw dream seems to be turning into this year's Warsaw nightmare.

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## Toastmasters International - Warsaw

Toastmasters club invites all to the weekly meetings. Toastmasters is an international organization for improving the art of Public Speaking. Guests are most welcome without any obligation apart from a short introduction. We meet every Wednesday at 19.00 at TP S.A. building, Twarda 18, Warsaw.  
For more info see [toastmasters.org.pl](http://toastmasters.org.pl) or call Etan at 696-292-451

## English Speaking Expat Group

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Contact: [Aneta.Bereda@wp.pl](mailto:Aneta.Bereda@wp.pl)

## International community for Warsaw's Expats

Be cordially invited to join Warsaw Entertain - a networking group which brings foreigners and local people together in order to have fun while participating in social events and meeting up with new people in Warsaw. We organize events or just bring people together.

For further details feel free to contact Barbara by emailing: [warsaw.entertain@gmail.com](mailto:warsaw.entertain@gmail.com)

## Poznan International Ladies Club

Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month (September - June)  
Andersia Hotel, Restaurant Mosaica, 9:30 AM  
Continental breakfast (cost 30 zł)  
Social time and information about upcoming activities  
<http://pilc-poznan.pl>

## Free conversation lessons

Free conversation lessons take place at KLUB DIALOGU, Krakowskie Przedmieście 13/156 (entrance from Tokarzewskiego) every Saturday at 11:00 am and 12:10 pm.  
Please call: 22-498-1010  
or email us: [info@klubdialogu.pl](mailto:info@klubdialogu.pl) if you are interested

## Church of England in Poland

We welcome Anglicans, Episcopalians and all others interested, to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday morning at 10.30 am. Join us for light refreshments after the service to learn more about the activities of our church.  
Place: Res Sacra Miser Chapel, ul. Krakowskie Przedmiescie 62, Warsaw.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:warsawh3@gmail.com) or [www.warsawhash.pl](http://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 Moulin Rouge restaurant located in the Zlote Tarasy Shopping Mall (ul. Zlota 59) from 10:00 - 11:00.  
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