

bridge club "dr.jurica tomljenović"



Date: 09/09/2017
To: all welcome
From: tihana@pilar.hr
No: 04 – PULA 2017

good morning bridge

Hello Everyone!

We have come to the last day of the festival and we have just the second Brk pairs session to play before the victory ceremony Saturday evening in the playing area and a party in Hotel Histria night club afterwards.

And we just had a record breaking year with 129 teams and 315 pairs in the main events. If we keep it like this we'll need to conquer some part of the hotel restaurant to have enough room for the players. Buffet included, of course.

The open teams fielded 129 teams and the group A finals were playing additional three rounds for the medals Friday afternoon, so I hope you managed to kibitz some of the exciting boards in the final matches.

The gold medal went, with a huge margin of 25VP, to the Polish team Bridge24.PL B.

1. BRIDGE24.PL B - Chmurski, Ingielewicz, Narkiewicz, Nowak, Tuczynski 206.60

2. TERRANEO - Simon, T. Terraneo, F. Terraneo, Weigkricht 181.44

3. A.J. DIAMENT - Baldysz, Dufrat, Filipowicz, Jaszczak, Sztyrak 175.95

Congratulations!

Friday evening we started Brk open pairs tournament that fielded record 330 pairs and Saturday at noon we continue with its second session and final session of the festival.

It has been a wonderful festival, I hope you enjoyed it and I am sure you will come back.

See you next year in Pula!



2017 Open teams winners

BRK OPEN PAIRS*2016 Brk open pairs winners***2016**

1. Danailov - Stamatov
2. Szots - Lazar
3. Kujawa - Kowalski
4. Papierniak - Figlus
5. Siba - Czimmer

2015

1. Jaszczak - Narkiewicz
2. Busse - Mscisz
3. Radisic - Zipovski
4. Nyberg - Blomquist
5. Dumbovich - Winkler

2014

1. Nanev - Gunev
2. Macskasy - Dombi
3. Stamatov - Danailov
4. Gold - Castner
5. Brantsma - Jagroop

2013

1. Terraneo - Simon
2. Zipovski - Radisic
3. Skwark - Witek
4. Szilagyi - Zsak
5. Hristov - Ivanov

2012

1. de Roos - de Donder
2. Pilch – Filipowicz
3. Wiankowski - Nowosadzki
4. Franzel – Purkarthofer
5. Hornischer - Knoll

BRK MEMORIAL TROPHY

Last year we completed the first Brk memorial trophy, a competition where a player with the best cumulative score in five years takes the prize. The winner was **Goran Radišić** from Serbia and this year we start the new cycle.

So load up your conventions and get ready for a new Brk trophy chase!

	Player	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
1	Goran Radisic	51.55	65.28	57.81	63.24	56.63	294.51
2	Dimitraki Zipovski	50.29	65.28	57.81	63.24	56.63	293.25
3	Josef Simon	58.77	66.73	56.34	59.10	50.00	290.94
4	Steve de Roos	64.68	56.64	56.73	55.77	53.73	287.55
5	Steven de Donder	64.68	56.64	56.73	55.77	53.73	287.55
6	Jerzy Skwark	56.59	62.20	54.65	54.43	59.14	287.01
7	Gergely Dombi	50.00	60.10	63.15	54.44	53.62	281.31
8	Zoltan Zsak	53.56	62.14	56.37	55.85	50.00	277.92
9	Gabor Macskasy	50.00	60.10	63.15	54.44	50.00	277.69
10	Sara Cividin	56.80	58.45	56.00	52.96	53.06	277.27
11	Vedran Zoric	56.93	57.40	53.99	52.16	56.48	276.96
12	Krzysztof Gora	59.85	53.44	57.90	53.82	50.00	275.01
13	Peter Lakatos	56.76	53.63	53.41	57.54	53.62	274.96
14	Csaba Czimmer	57.99	49.83	53.08	52.95	60.66	274.51
15	Goran Borevkovic	54.28	58.37	56.74	54.35	50.63	274.37
16	Brigitta Fischer	51.93	60.62	52.97	58.61	50.00	274.13
17	Kiril Marinovski	48.63	57.40	59.91	57.26	50.63	273.83
18	Grzegorz Superson	53.70	51.42	50.98	58.16	59.13	273.39
19	Gabor Winkler	56.76	53.63	50.53	60.53	50.00	271.45
20	Branko Refi	54.28	58.37	56.74	51.72	50.00	271.11



The Cup & The Winner

ARENATURIST OPEN TEAMS RESULTS

(group winners)

GROUP A

1. BRIDGE24.PL B	Bartosz Chmurski,Zdzislaw Ingielewicz,Grzegorz Narkiewicz,Kamil Nowak,Piotr Tuczynski	206.60
2. TERRANEO	Josef Simon,Tino Terraneo,Franz Terraneo,Terry Weigkricht	181.44
3. A.J. DIAMENT	Cathy Baldysz,Katarzyna Dufurat,Dominik Filipowicz,Andrzej Jaszcak,Leszek Szttyrak	175.95
4. BARRACUDA	Sam Bahbout,Steven de Donder,Mike van der Vorst,Tim Verbeek	174.48
5. NEDBULL	Diyan Danailov,Rob Helle,Ed Hoogenkamp,Jerry Stamatov	173.29
6. TEAM STOKKA	Simon Ekenberg,Simon Hult,Ola Rimstedt,Mikael Rimstedt	169.00
7. AGATA	Andrzej Gelberg,Tadeusz Laszczak,Artur Rutkowski,Wojciech Uszynski,Anna Wheeler,Piotr Zak	164.26
8. THE BALTANS	Vincent de Pagter,Yke Smil,Mark Thiele,Yael Topial	162.60
9. KE-VA-ME-SE	Zsuzsanna Kerekes,Katalin Mezei,Gabor Sebes,Sandor Varga	155.79
10. MAGMA	Ireneusz Kowalczyk,Wojtek Soltysik,Tomasz Wisniewski,Marek Witek	148.90

GROUP B

1. SANSAR	Orhan Ekinci,Yusuf Kahyaoglu,Hatice Ozgur,Dilek Yavas	146.20
2. DUMBOVICH	Alon Birman,Miklos Dumbovich,Peter Lakatos,Gabor Winkler	140.55
3. UT2	Goran Borevkovic,Joro Hristov,Kiril Marinovski,Marina Pilipovic,Nikica Sver	140.12

GROUP C

1. CSAPI	Gyorgy Barany,Eva Csiby,Andras Kovacs,Dani Viktor	137.98
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GROUP D

1. HANYSY I GORALE	Kazimierz Cios,Andrzej Maszczyszyn,Marek Nowakowski,Jerzy Radomski	137.96
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GROUP E

1. LELA	Tadeusz Biernat,Kazimierz Galka,Jozef Tokarz,Ryszard Wolinski	130.27
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GROUP F

1. APARTAMANI STANKOVIC	Filip Jelic,Luka Kesic,Slobodan Simic,Andrea Stankovic	130.35
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GROUP G

1. MALENES ANGELS	Malene Holm Christensen,Robbie Teunissen,Frank van Engelen,Bas van Engelen	130.56
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GROUP H

1. ASKEROD	Jan Becklen,Johan Bennet,Arne Larsson,Mats Pettersson	123.34
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GROUP I

1. DUROSTONE	Daniel Bako,Andrea Keresztesy,Akos Revai,Hanna Revai	124.58
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GROUP J

1. ROPELV	Arild Basma,Geir Bygland,Tove Nass,Ann Karin Nass,Runar Pettersen	111.18
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GROUP K

1. KALMAAR	Jyri Aava,Tiit Jakobson,Ivar Kalma,Mikk Mirme	118.32
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GROUP L

1. FVG	Ercole Martini,Ileana Saina,Guerrino Saina,Daniele Tam	104.20
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GROUP M

1. BUMBLEBEE	Matko Ferenc,Sandra Havlicek,Goran Lamza,Ladislav Zepic,Vjekoslav Zepic	106.01
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GROUP N

1. LUCKY	Heinz Charkow,Astrid Kerbl,Michael Knoll,Renate Siegrund	97.11
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THE IDIOT

By SchTsch Dostoyevsky

Back in the old days I was the editor of the famous Croatian bridge column "The Twilight Zone" that featured bridge decisions that looked ingenious at first, but turned out to be a complete catastrophe. Now I'm older so I just call it its real name, hence the title.

Fighting in the last round of qualifications we needed a miracle to qualify in the A finals. And probably some penalties to our competition, too. But the spirit was high nevertheless and we were trying to outplay our opponents using any possible bridge weapon available.

So I tried with a vision. I engaged my crystal ball in the head and picked up the following hand:

♠ 8 ♥ A K 10 7 4 2 ♦ K 9 ♣ K 10 9 7

Nice hand for a vision. The crystal ball said 1 heart. LHO doubled and partner pre-empted with 3 hearts. RHO bid 3 spades and I took a look at the crystal ball to see that my singleton spade didn't look promising. Heart game looked worth a shot, but, by the love of Newton, it looked obvious that your LHO will bid spade game by the sheer rule of inertia. Making, sacrificing cheaply, whatever. A classic two-way shot.

Now what? Do you expect your partner to double? Not really. It will be you against them again. So what does the crystal ball say? You could bid 4 clubs as a cue bid trying to scare the opponents out of the auction. But the inertia is a wicked thing. Your partner might double 4 spades thinking you are stronger than you really are. Are we ready to score minus 790? I don't think so. So the ball looks at you and whispers "...5 hearts, let them guess, not you...".

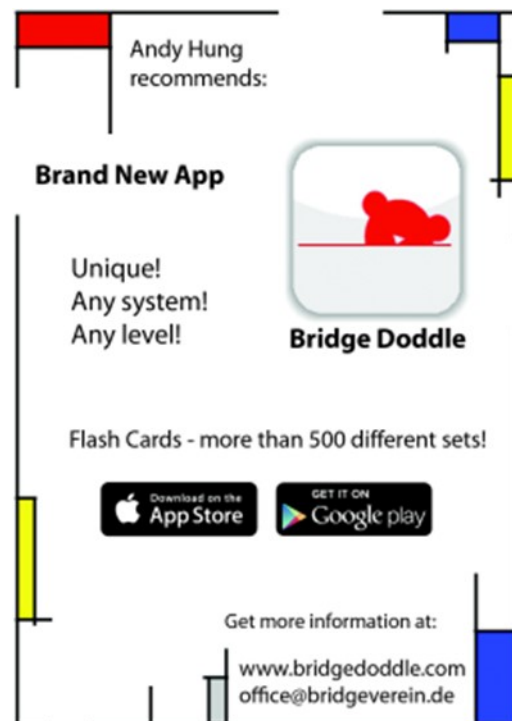
So I leapt to 5 hearts, passed out to RHO who, that damn inertia

again, dully doubled. King of spades was led and the dummy went down, together with my enthusiasm, with:

♠ 9 6 4 3 2 ♥ 8 6 5 3 ♦ A 2 ♣ 5 3

4 spades looks like a bloodbath in moysian fit while your contract depends on club ace which, at the table, turned out not to be where you wanted it to be. 4 hearts is cold though and quite a few pairs scored +790 in 4 hearts doubled. 4 spades goes for 800 and you scored your deserved -200.

I looked at the crystal ball again and I can swear I heard it whispering "...idiot...".



WHY DO I LIKE IT HERE?

By Peter Lipp

We are all crazy here. And we are not alone... Karoly, Edit, Ingar, Ninos, Himani, Eddy and Pjotr are here too together with 600 other crazy bridge enthusiast from all over the world. Why do we come year for year, you ask? Don't ask, come and see for yourself... You get to spend hours in the sun at the beach... (ah, this was last year...). Eat Dorada, Čevapčići, Pizza or and ice cream... Drink cold draught beer from the bottle... And play endless hour's of good Bridge (yes, partner, I meant the opponents)... Have a nice birthday breakfast with friends on the terrace of your affordable apartment in short walking distance of the huge playing area (surely our 5th place in the mixed was not only the result of premature birthday presents...)... Enjoy success (see before)... Endure failure (sorry partner, this -1400

was most certainly not "necessary")... and all this in the beautiful country of Croatia. Well organized - and tournaments of that many bridge players who are used to register 5 minutes past before the scheduled start are difficult to handle and a lot of work. Enjoy a terrific presentation of the results online for your later blaming discussions. Be sure to bring warm clothes for the cold well climatized playing area. See you at the Pula Bridge-Festival 2018!

We'll be back!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Herman De Wael

One player was late at the table. His partner asks me to play in his place. "Do you know anything about bridge?" he asks. From around the table three of my (so-called) friends shout "No!"

The club king is led. "How are your leads?" asks declarer. "Third!".

I pass one table and I hear four people speaking in a language I don't recognize. "Will you join us in our little lesson of Finnish?" asks one of the players. While I am wondering who could be trying to learn Finnish, she explains that her opponents are Estonian. (Finnish and Estonian are quite close languages). The lady continues "Do you know this gentleman's name? - Kalma – but that means Death in Finnish" (Luckily not in Estonian). "I already got the kiss of death today!".

One dummy was not happy with my ruling and made this known in a loud voice, in Polish. His opponent, Croatian, told me "I understand him, and I don't like what he's saying." To which I responded, "I don't understand him, and even I don't like what he's saying".

A friendly American player starts chatting to me before the start of the session, wondering if there are any other Americans in the tournament. At that moment a lady sits down at the next table, and I know she's also American. While he's from Seattle, she's from Boston. The whole of Europe can fit between those two cities!

At one table, the explanation of a bid does not conform at all to the hand that the player held. This resulted in a very bad result for their opponents, who of course called the Director. The pair provided evidence that the explanation was correct. After due deliberation, we decided to accept the evidence, and we ruled that the bidder had made a mistake. That is not an infraction, and so the bad result would have to stand. After I told the opponents this, the male partner made complaining noises, but the female one was conciliatory. "Don't we deserve a glass of champagne as compensation for our bad luck?". Any chance of that happening, Tihana?

At one table, a Polish player, who had very poor English, explained a call of one spade by his partner as "four plus clubs", despite not having alerted it. The opponents believed this and a ruling became necessary. It turned out that the Polish player had simply made a mistake in translating into English. He had really meant to explain that it showed four plus spades. Nevertheless, I had to rule misinformation. At the end of the board I asked him "how is spades in Polish?" "Pik" – "and in Serbian?" – "Pik". Next time guys, just say it in Polish! (well, the "pik" part at least),

"Can we have some boards?" - they arrive immediately – "Can we also have some beers?"

A great time has been had by all.

Thank you, Pula – see you all next year.

YOUR BOARDS

by Mushfiqur Rahman Mohan, president of Bangladesh bridge federation

BOARD#2

E
NS

♠ K 10 9 8 5 4
♥ K 4 3
♦ 5
♣ 10 6 5

♠ J 2
♥ Q 10 8 6
♦ Q 8 6
♣ A K 9 7

W N E S

♠ A 3
♥ J 9
♦ K J 10 7 4
♣ Q J 3 2

♠ Q 7 6
♥ A 7 5 2
♦ A 9 3 2
♣ 8 4

West North East South

1H pass 1D pass
3NT all pass 1NT pass

I lead 6 s from dummy put J s my p put k declare duck My p play 10 declarer A s I drop my Q Then declarer play 7 D I cash A & back 7 S My p cash remain all S & contact set 2



GOLDEN OLDIES DEPARTMENT -- REMINISCENCE OF THE 2014 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CROATIA

The article below was originally written as a memoir of my adventures in the Seniors Teams event at the 2014 European Championships, held here in Croatia in the lovely coastal town of Opatija (something like an hour from Pula) and co-hosted by the Croatian Bridge Federation. It was intended for inclusion in the final Daily Bulletin of those Championships, but due to some technical snafus it never made it into print.

We are all older now, a few maybe even wiser, and perhaps more readily feel our mortality. On that very occasion we had almost lost one of our squadron -- Zeljko Pintaric ("Pinta") -- to a coronary just before the event (as noted in the article), and similar close calls have since beset other members of that team.

Sadly, at the start of the current year we lost one of our comrades in that 2014 Seniors Championship -- Davor Antonic -- who unlike some of the rest of us did not manage to recover from the medical episode that laid him low. This article is respectfully and affectionately dedicated to his memory. RIP Cincar.

THREEScore AND BEYOND: A ROOKIE'S PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK FROM THE 2014 EUROPEAN SENIORS

By Marshall Lewis

As one who came of age way back in the heyday of flower children and free love, when easy virtue was its own reward, the possibility of one day becoming a *bona fide* sexagenarian held an intriguing appeal. Eventually I bankrupted the Vegas bookies by living long enough to achieve this long-cherished ambition but you can imagine my chagrin on learning that the main benefit now accruing to me was merely the right to compete in Seniors bridge events. After a suitable period of dignified grief, I decided I might as well try to make the most out of it then.

Along the way I'd transferred my whereabouts and eventually my WBF affiliation to this splendid land of Croatia, and in 2014 when we were to host the European Championships in the lovely town of Opatija, the local authorities conscripted me to wage battle under my new red-white-&-blue flag, together with a stalwart quintet of indigenous veterans to raise whatever hell we could. For starters, most of the gang had never played in a European Championship, and one combatant had within the same fortnight fled his hospital bed during recovery from a heart attack while adamantly vetoing a well-meaning suggestion by the Federation that he might be replaced for the forthcoming fray -- plus your author was but a rank neophyte in Seniors competition. Hence our aspirations were not unduly exalted. Our goals were simply: (1) to be impeccable hosts; (2) while still making our presence keenly felt on the field of battle, and so: (3) to give periodic cause for exultation to those members of our Federation who would be cheering us on all around the Republic; (4) but to visit total financial ruin on any other members of said Federation who might have secretly wagered on a more dismal outcome; and (5) above all to emerge victorious from any contest in which the matchups might pit us against one of our geographical neighbors and hence perennial rivals. It is, after all, the Sacred Honor of the Village which is of paramount importance, however large or small the relevant village may be.

Happily, we did achieve most of these modest objectives. I can however attest with some surprise that six decades of decadence was still inadequate preparation for the grueling challenges, both physical and even more so psychological, which await all who survive long enough to reach this crowning capstone phase of their bridge careers. In this narrative I will NOT be focusing on the awesome feats of derring-do performed by certain bridge luminaries we encountered (many of whom have been certified world-class champions for eons) so as to emphasize that the Force is still strong within the aged warriors. You are simply instructed to believe that is so. Instead, the main intent of this log is to amuse and forewarn, rather than to instill profound awe in my readers at their geriatric prowess. Accordingly the experiences related here will feature a droll selection of quaint and poignant moments that have left the strongest impression on me from a "Human Comedy" perspective.

These little bijoux for me most typify the atmosphere of this enjoyable event, in which the continent's Gladiators Emeritus do their utmost to keep the faith with Dylan Thomas' classic exhortation *"Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night"* (or in this case *Fight*). Because despite the frequent demonstrations of unabated mastery, time has lamentably taken some toll on all of us. Here and there a step has been lost, the eye drifts away from the ball, and although memories of a first kiss long ago may be as vivid as any other lightning bolt, we may have just overlooked that someone discarded on the first round of trumps. I do not bother with such mundane clichés as leads out of turn, revokes, or insufficient bids, banalities which routinely litter all three Medal Series at virtually every Championship. My little curios all involve something at least a bit more piquant than those garden-variety consequences of a lapse in attention.

Exhibit A: "It's going to be a looonnnngggg tournament" -- Tale of the Other King of Clubs

As hosts we were featured on Vu-Graph in the opening match, and against the current holders, FRANCE. I extracted the S hand below from the very first board and when partner opened a strong 1N, for me this was an automatic raise to 3N. After mature reflection, Francois Leenhardt finally fished out a club spot, and already a pile of IMPs was up for grabs as both possible games could conceivably either make or fail:

Seniors Qual, Round 1	Board # 1	Dealer: North	Vul: None
	A Q 9 4		
	9 6 3 2		
	A K 5		
	Q 6		
J 10 5		K 8 6	
8		10 5 4	
Q 9 8 3		J 7 2	
A K 8 7 2		10 9 4 3	
	7 3 2		
	A K Q J 7		
	10 6 4		
	J 5		
N	E	S	W
Lamza	Leenhardt	Lewis	Piganeau
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
			Croatia NS / France EW

If playing 4H, declarer must be instantly battle-ready right on the first deal, accurately leading a spade to the nine on the first round of that suit as an extra-chance play. Meanwhile back at our own 3N ranch, the defense has only to cash out the club suit -- but accidents (and miracles) do occasionally happen. Leenhardt could hardly be expected to block the suit, even in a Posthumous Teams, but it is not totally impossible for W to play the lead to be from a three-card holding and accordingly return a small club at trick two. After all, for example, sneaky players will sometimes bash to 3N holding surprise major-suit playability and weak clubs, for fear that Stayman might get doubled for a fatal lead. Slim chance at best, to be sure, but hope springs eternal. And indeed, what happened next amply confirmed that mysterious factors can produce some very quirky effects -- first-board jitters, Vu-Graph anxiety, caffeine deficiency, or the dreaded "Generation-Z" Force can all be highly disruptive to bridge focus.

Once the lead hit the table everyone followed promptly to the first trick, won by the King -- which the defender then twirled about thoughtfully in his fingers as he pondered his next move: *"Should I try to cash five quick clubs? Could the lead be from a tripleton? Oops ... for that matter, am I even 100% certain which club was led? For example, was it the nine?"* Everyone else had long ago turned their cards face down as a matter of course, but at length W concluded his five-finger exercise with the king of clubs and slapped it down on the table again face up and began to ask to see everyone's card again (which was his right as he had never turned his own card over, so it was not yet a quitted trick). Unfortunately, before W could get a syllable out declarer simply assumed that declarer was done deliberating and was now leading his other club honor to trick two (no doubt having fatalistically expected this dreaded outcome all along), and accordingly put the club queen on the table. Once the defenders had finished digesting what had occurred and the associated implications, W eventually continued with the club ace, while E carefully unblocked his ten, allowing five clubs to be run for down one. Wistful but as yet unperturbed (because I naively expected a push board, though not in every theatrical detail), nevertheless I heaved a deep sigh and privately reflected *"It is going to be a looonnnngggg tournament."* Lose 11, great start.

Exhibit B: Pass-Double Inversion & Directional Asking Bids, Croatian-style -- Tale of the Eight of Clubs

The curious feature of my next miniature does not feature an irregularity -- at least, not as that term is used in the Laws. However since the situation arose as a result of my bidding, many would say that by definition irregularity was centrally involved. Once again it was the first board of a match, now against Germany (who eventually carried off the B final), and once again I sat in the S seat for the deal below:

Seniors B Final, Round 7 BOARD # 1 Dealer: N Vul: None

	64	
	K976	
	96	
	AQ874	
QT72		95
J32		AQT84
KT		87543
K953		2
	AKJ83	
	5	
	AQJ2	
	JT6	

W	N	E	S	
Strater	Lamza	Kratz	Lewis	Croatia NS / Germany EW
	Pass	2H*	X	2H = Hearts + minor, below opening
3H	Pass	Pass	X	
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	
X (!)	All Pass			

I have long been preaching to any who would listen (and she agrees) that against such weak two-suited openings one should add a full trick to one's values (or a second trick to the one already added in all circumstances). Thus to keep the faith with my own dictum, I started with a takeout double planning to rebid spades, rejecting the more orthodox alternative of Spades-then-Double. This produced a sticky situation when W raised and it came back to me, as now I faced a partner who had passed twice so the aggressive campaign was even riskier. Stubborn as ever, I stuck to Plan A and at last partner came to life with 3N. The stakes were soon raised to an uncomfortable level when W, who understandably was not impressed with the sound of our auction, chose to double. A heart went to the jack and king and in short order we were +550, despite the 4-1 club break, thanks to partner's club eight which provided a crucial tenace in the suit. His heart nine was also a potentially vital asset, as it made the contract foolproof on any other lead as well, by providing a late stop in the suit if declarer is obliged to lead a diamond to the queen to establish a ninth trick, whereupon W would then shoot the heart jack through.

The hand is presented here not to showcase my dubious bidding, nor to celebrate the gratifying result, but rather for reasons reflected in the subtitle above. In theory the doubler should have the strong hand and the two-time passer a comparatively weak hand, and at least superficially that description seems to apply in this case. Yet the hand I had trumpeted as a rock-crusher took only three tricks, while it was my seemingly silent partner who contributed two-thirds of the tricks to our game. It was an unusual variant of the concept "Pass-Double Inversion"-- or from another standpoint my sequence proved the equivalent of a directional ask which said: "I have some high cards -- can your passed hand produce a stopper and a source of tricks plus some crucial spot-cards just in case?"

Exhibit C: Sleeping Dogs Lie -- Tale of the Queen of Hearts

Fast-forwarding here to the final match of this loooonnnngggg tournament, our team was now playing exclusively for the Sacred Honor of the Village, as we were at long last confronting a team from our own neighborhood, the delegation from Slovenia. Despite extremely amicable relations, we were still keen to achieve this last and most important of our team objectives by taking no prisoners. Unfortunately, things quickly felt like they had started ill for us, and to make matters worse I had just misguessed the trump queen in 4S for a possible swing away. Still brooding darkly over my ill-fated choice on that deal, moodily I withdrew the N hand below from its slot:

Seniors B Final, Round 8 Board #26 Dealer: E Vul: All

	5	
	KJT863	
	Q3	
	AKJ8	
J63		AKQ97
74		Q9
AJ75		K8
9652		T743
	T842	
	A52	
	T9642	
	Q	

West	North	East	South	Croatia NS / Slovenia EW
	Lewis		Lamza	

We will not delve deeply into the auction, except to report that it began as it ended: with three passes. 4H was then reached in brisk fashion (1H-2H-4H), whereupon my LHO screenmate suddenly sank into a trance. I could only conclude that he had some sort of very distributional hand which was light in high cards so he hadn't felt it safe to enter the auction vulnerable -- that is, until we had shown a significant fit from which he concluded that his side likewise had a good fit. Eventually he passed, which seemed inevitable since it is very hard to justify remaining silent until opponents reach game and then suddenly entering the auction, especially vulnerable. He duly led out queen then ace of spades. As he might easily have a diamond honor too, the position of the heart queen was marked. After a trump to the ace and another one to the supremely confident jack, a cruel surprise befell me. In a mild daze I asked if I might see the silent-throughout dealer's entire hand, and he sheepishly exposed his reasonable facsimile of a strong NT for me to read and weep, all the while profusely apologizing for having slept through the auction until my 4H bid. There was little I could do but laugh it off and graciously reply: "It's no problem, my friend, we all have to win IMPs whenever and however we can."

Happily things picked up after that, and teammates produced a fine set. So when we conducted our comparison the rather ironic good news was that the dozen IMPs lost on the hand above were almost the only ones conceded in the whole match. So despite the myriad wounds suffered throughout this very loooonnnnggg event, our final Parthian shot enabled us to make our exit from the European Seniors with unfurrowed brows and heads held high.

In closing, I want to thank our captain, Tvrtko Perkovic, and all my gallant teammates: Davor Antonic, Slobodan Babic, Zvonko Petrovic, and especially my partner Goran "Bumbar" Lamza. The deepest appreciation of all, however, I offer to our sixth Musketeer, the intrepid Zeljko Pintaric (aka Pinta), the aforementioned refugee from Intensive Cardiac Care who refused to malingering in bed surrounded by a bevy of gorgeous nurses attending to his every need, when his country needed his services in Opatija. The world still needs heroes, Pinta. Even crazy ones. You are an inspiration to us all.

BRK OPEN PAIRS RESULTS - sessions 1-3

(best 98 of 315)

1 Marko Sipus - Ratko Simic	66.78	50 Miklos Dumbovich - Gabor Winkler	57.29
2 Tadeusz Biernat - Kazimierz Galka	66.26	51 Henryk Lakomski - Tadeusz Kadzielewski	57.09
3 Grozio Donev - Zhivko Draganov	64.13	52 Katarzyna Dufrat - Dominik Filipowicz	57.09
4 Simon Ekenberg - Ola Rimstedt	63.54	53 Danuta Krupnik - Ireneusz Jagielski	57.07
5 Adam Pawlowski - Jacek Grzelczak	63.36	54 Daniela Hnatova - Bohumir Zajicek	56.94
6 Slobodan Babic - Zvonko Petrovic	63.34	55 Eduard Schnoell - Johanna Piibor	56.87
7 Steven de Donder - Tim Verbeek	62.88	56 Bartosz Chmurski - Piotr Tuczynski	56.82
8 Dean Spasov - Nikolay Vassilev	62.37	57 Doris Fischer - Bernd Saurer	56.61
9 Jurica Caric - Dubravko Diklic	61.81	58 Henrik Tormassy - Ferenc Zold	56.60
10 Jan Stanczak - Grzegorz Deptula	61.66	59 Lucie Kohutova - Martin Schanka	56.54
11 Mate Mestric - Tomislav Scepanovic	61.33	60 Mariusz Kowalski - Jacek Lesniczak	56.40
12 Tom Gjos - Roar Johansen	61.33	61 Maja Zabierek - Hubert Urban	56.36
13 Gabriel Balita - Alex Toma	61.32	62 Ove Gundersen - Olav Erik Didriksen	56.30
14 Goran Radisic - Dimitraki Zipovski	61.15	63 Justyna Zmuda - Michal Klukowski	56.25
15 Andrzej Jaszczak - Leszek Szyrak	61.05	64 Christian Glubrecht - Helmut Lux	56.18
16 Gorana Mitic - Bojan Ambroz	60.96	65 Marko Mladenovic - Dragan Stojkovic	55.75
17 Hulda Ahonen - Clas Nyberg	60.72	66 John Vaage - John Helge Herland	55.67
18 Laszlo Honti - Gyula Bodis	60.47	67 Slobodan Simic - Luka Kesic	55.65
19 Mary Leufbecher - Roland Leufbecher	60.40	68 Goran Borevkovic - Filip Jelic	55.60
20 Jerry Stamatov - Diyan Danailov	60.07	69 Maciej Bielawski - Stefan Szenberg	55.56
21 Piotr Marcinowski - Arkadiusz Majcher	59.46	70 Henning Bohnsack - Manfred Schumann	55.55
22 Pawel Krzeminski - Jaroslaw Lakomy	59.45	71 Joro Hristov - Kiril Marinovski	55.43
23 Loekie Ahrens - Leo Huvers	59.44	72 Petr Bahník - Otakar Svoboda	55.42
24 Dominique Stuyck - Sam Bahbout	59.37	73 Jacek Radomski - Michal Witkowski	55.32
25 Karlo Brguljan - Branko Refi	59.36	74 Vincent de Pagter - Yke Smil	55.27
26 Gerda Heinrichs - Klaus Appelt	59.28	75 Ivan Bilusic - Renata Petrovic-Bilusic	55.09
27 Rob Helle - Ed Hoogenkamp	59.14	76 Asok Lean - Hewa Adhikary	55.03
28 Lisbeth Eide - Thor Kjennbakken	59.12	77 Nenad Skitarelic - Ognjen Skreblin	55.01
29 Thomas MacCormac - Roman McMaugh	59.01	78 Janusz Kalida - Piotr Walczak	54.90
30 Csaba Czimer - Gyorgy Kuttner	58.96	79 Aida Jansma - Jan Jansma	54.87
31 Gergely Dombi - Gabor Szots	58.96	80 Katalin Mezei - Gabor Sebes	54.87
32 Odon Dienes - Csaba Raduly	58.90	81 Gunn Hellnes - Ann-Mari Juvik	54.66
33 Christian Terraneo - Josef Simon	58.69	82 Francesco Chiarandini - Alvaro Gaiotti	54.64
34 Jacek Ciechomski - Kamil Nowak	58.66	83 Karol Dautbegovic - Adalbert Horvat	54.57
35 Rob Jagroop - Anneke van der Meer	58.51	84 Monika Suchodolska - Adam Suchodolski	54.53
36 Tiit Jakobson - Jyri Aava	58.37	85 Margherita Chavarria - Michela Salvato	54.35
37 Lukasz Gawel - Tomasz Klukowski	58.31	86 Pawel Chindelewicz - Piotr Tuszynski	54.33
38 Eva Bahnikova - Paula Svobodova	58.29	87 Ed Levy - Marshall Lewis	54.30
39 Markus Knob - Clemens Wanha	58.18	88 Ibaqahim Al-Qattan - Nabeel Al-Hussaini	54.24
40 Franz Terraneo - Terry Weigkricht	58.11	89 Robert Frank - Jphan Goransson	54.23
41 Maciej Dabrowski - Andrzej Pawlak	57.99	90 Kornel Lazar - Laszlo Szilagyi	54.13
42 Zbigniew Ciereszko - Aleksander Poznysz	57.92	91 Jozef Tokarz - Ryszard Wolinski	54.09
43 Dan Jacob - Michael Yuen	57.89	92 Geir Ness - Arild Basma	54.08
44 Artur Glowacki - Adrian Bakalarz	57.88	93 Grzegorz Narkiewicz - Zdzislaw Ingielewicz	53.99
45 Mirosław Makatrewicz - Tomasz Sinkiewicz	57.81	94 Agnieszka Pietrzyk - Michal Wrobel	53.96
46 Doga Seker - Cathy Baldysz	57.78	95 Fulvio Milic - Halina Swiech	53.81
47 Alessandro Gandoglia - Paolo Sconocchia	57.68	96 Goran Cekol - Srdjan Katusic	53.81
48 Paula de Lorenzo - Jordi Sabate	57.40	97 Maria Lebedeva - Igor Khazanov	53.80
49 Boris Bursac - Robert Gvozdenovic	57.40	98 Slawomir Czech - Piotr Suchodolski	53.74

INTERVIEW

MICHAL KLUKOWSKI

A standard question for the beginning, where and how did you start playing bridge?

Yeah, that is a standard question. I started playing bridge when I was ten. It happened because my parents are bridge players, actually they are even here with me. I played with my father at the first tournament. They have shown me the game and when I was young they played a lot so from time to time I was following them on the tournaments watching them play and they have seen that I am more or less interested in bridge so they started teaching me how to play.

When you look back, who would you say had the greatest influence on your development as a bridge player?

Well, it's a tough question. At the beginning my parents, that's for sure, because that's why I started to play. And then, well, I must first admit that I don't really read bridge books, I read only few, so the biggest influence on me makes my current partner, Gawrys, because I don't read books and I have to learn from someone so I learn from him. I had another serious partner before Gawrys, Zatorski, with whom I play from time to time now, and I must say I learned a lot from him as well.

You won quite a lot of things, do you have a favourite victory?

To be honest, my favourite victories are those with my girlfriend Justyna because, you know, it's always a special thing when you win with someone whom you are together. I especially love to win with her so my favourite one is probably this from Montecatini this year because we won with a very small margin. Actually it was something like an overtrick in one board. So it was very tasty when it's a small margin. And the most important victory for my career so far was that one from Sanya 2014, because that was my first world championship title and, since I was relatively unknown before, after that I started playing serious professional bridge.

So you were not sure whether you will be a bridge professional before that?

Of course I wanted to and I was dreaming about it, but without results it is tough to get there. So I think Sanya is the most important victory of my career, but the favourite ones are those with Justyna, especially Montecatini.

Do you have favourite opponents? Someone you especially like to compete with?

That's a good question and I must say that I don't. I just play the same against everyone. I really don't have anyone against whom I love to play and I don't have anyone against whom I hate to play. I just play.

You are 21, what would you say is your characteristic that managed to push you so high so fast in the bridge world?

I actually have an answer for that, because I was thinking about myself and I realised something. I'm with Justyna and she plays a lot. And I see, especially in women bridge, how much is the mental side important. In women I would say that the mental side is even more important than the abilities. And I feel that my strongest side is my mental side because I can stand pressure very well. I'm not nervous. And I think, because on the top level the abilities are more or less the same and details are important,

that mentality is probably the most important detail. And I am very glad that I have that detail.

Do you do anything apart from playing bridge?

I finished high school at 2015 and after that I'm just playing bridge. I am considering to study something, because you never know what could happen to you, it's very good to have something outside of the bridge not to get crazy. When you only play bridge it could be boring. I like ball games, I have a very big knowledge about sports, I like to watch sports and I like to play as well.

What do you think about gambling?

Well, gambling is cards, bridge is cards, it's rather normal that I can play some games, but I'm trying to avoid them, because it's very bad when you play too often.

What do you think about Pula festival?

Of course I like Pula. The strongest sides are weather, the tournaments are very well organised, and I like to play at evenings, I love to have the whole day to get to the beach or some sightseeing. At the beginning of the festival there was a lot of rain, but since Monday the weather is very good and I've been 3-4 times in the sea. And this year you hit the record numbers with players. Last year it was a problem with Wrocław, but this year there is no other tournament and you are growing which is very good.

So can we expect you next year also?

If I will not have anything to do I will come with pleasure for sure.



FESTIVAL RULES

- ♠ Always be on time!
- ♠ Make your registration in advance!
- ♠ For both pair and team games you should register at the Registration desk at least one hour before an event starts, but please do it as soon as possible.
- ♠ For teams tournaments you should pay your entry fee at Registration desk at the time of registration.
- ♠ For pairs tournaments you pay entry fees at the table in the first round (please prepare exact amount of money in advance). In case you do not put the exact amount of money in the envelope, we will return the change sometime during the tournament.
- ♠ Slow play will not be tolerated.
- ♠ Remain seated until the change is announced!
- ♠ Bridge-mates will be used in all events.
- ♠ Boards are duplicated in all events.
- ♠ Do not leave the table during a session. If you have to do so – call the TD.
- ♠ Your mobile phone, and any other electronic devices, must be switched off – and put on the table or chair next to you. Or leave them in your room.
- ♠ The convention card is not obligatory, but we recommend it. Please feel free to take a copy at the Registration desk.
- ♠ Make your opening leads face down.
- ♠ Leave the boards and the bidding boxes on the table.
- ♠ Be nice to your partner, opponents, officials of the tournament and others...only together can we make this tournament a friendly and comfortable place for all.
- ♠ Follow the ALERT procedure!
- ♠ 1 NT opening bid, if not 15-18 balanced variety must be alerted!
- ♠ 1NT opening bid on hands that can have less than 10 HCP is not allowed.
- ♠ HUM and Brown Sticker methods are not allowed (please check with TD if you are not sure about conventions you use).
- ♠ Do not alert any bids higher than 3NT.
- ♠ Psychics of strong openings are not allowed. Strong openings are when the minimum is 15 HCP or more.

How You can help us

- ♠ Register in advance
- ♠ Don't make double registrations – agree with your partner/team who will register
- ♠ When making entries - PRINT your names (as readable as possible)
- ♠ Prepare the exact amount of money to put in the envelope for entry fees
- ♠ Close the bidding boxes after the last round
- ♠ Collect your prize as soon as possible
- ♠ Be nice to your partner and opponents
- ♠ Write something for the Bulletin
- ♠ Bring us a photo from the Festival
- ♠ Send us your story (bridge or not) to be published in the bulletin (tihana@pilar.hr)
- ♠ Publish on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter

Please register in advance!