Goodmorning Bridge

Pula Bridge Festival Online Bulletin

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Dear Pula Players,

Here we are at the beginning of the 60th international Pula bridge festival. All together, once again!

I wish you all warm welcome to the magnificent city of Pula, our venue Park Plaza Histria, and the 60^{th} edition of the festival!

We started yesterday with Welcome tournament and in the field of 52 pairs the best were Oleksandr Bielov or Ukraina and Grigol Gogoberidze of Georgia. Well done!

We have over 500 registered players from thirty countries and four continents. Still, we are not close in numbers to the best 2017-19 years of the festival, but we are improving. Thank you so much for coming, we will do our best to make your experience pleasing and memorable. It seems that weather will be on our side, we are expecting lot of sun and daily temperatures of about 23 Celsius, and the sea is still warm, 23-24 Celsius, so try to find some time to swim. There might be a storm on Wednesday or Thursday, but since those are the days of teams tournaments when we play all day long it shouldn't bother us too much. You see how I take care of everything?

We expect to have about 150-180 pairs and 70-80 teams at main events, which is certainly enough for highly competitive tournament and great prizes.

As usual, we will play in the Congress Hall of the hotel Histria which is in the left wing (when you look towards the hotel). From Tuesday on, we will also use another playing room which is in the ex-Casino. We can fit up to 30 tables there, and it is nice air conditioned space with its own bar:). You can enter it from outside and from the inside of hotel Histria, but much easier is from the outside, just follow signs.

Registrations will be available only <u>online</u> and will close 3-4 hours before the start of pairs and approximately two hours before the start of teams tournaments. Pairs/ teams who register later will be allowed to play only if it is convenient for the organizer. Please help us by registering in advance, and in case you decide to cancel your registration please inform us immediately at <u>pulabridge@gmail.com</u> so we can organize the sections and maybe let someone else play. If you are looking for a partner or team-mates let us know.

As a part of celebration of the 60th edition of Pula Bridge Festival, Madhatter is inviting you all to his midnight karaoke party that will be held on Monday, starting slowly at 10 p.m. at Boschetto (Boškarin). Before karaoke, there will be Madhatter's Challenge where teams will compete in various tasks not related to bridge. Boschetto is less than 500 meters (see the map on the last page of this bulletin) from the venue and we arranged they stay open (very) late, so we can, once again, have a real laud party without disturbing other guests. And of course, drinks will be at discount. After the Victory ceremony on Saturday 17th, we will have a dancing party, probably again at Boschetto, but you will be informed on time. For now, just prepare your karaoke song, find a team and register for Madhatter's Bridgeless Challenge, and come to Boschetto on Monday about 10 p.m. Wear a hat!

There are almost thirty people involved in running this festival, TDs, computing and hands preparing team, prize-giving and registration officials, event managers, bulletin, BBO team, social networks and web editors, and technical support. If you have any questions or you need help, please do not hesitate to contact the festival crew. We are all here to make your stay comfortable.

This is also opportunity to thank those who were especially engaged in preparations, Adam Magyar, Ogi, Kristian and Jurica, Superson, Anneke, and many others. Also, thanks to Croatian bridge federation, Zagreb bridge association, Opatija bridge club and Hungarian and Polish bridge federations for their help with equipment and promotion.

During the festival we will issue four numbers of this bulletin and the final one with all the results. Bulletin will be published only online at pulabridgefestival.com. You are invited and kindly requested to contribute to the bulletin with your stories, photos, or whatever you think is worth publishing and others would enjoy. We would be happy to include a promotion of your tournament, happy birthday wishes to a friend or a love letter.

We have ten days of bridge and fun in front of us, so it is time to start enjoying!

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMP PAIRS

Saturday, 4 p.m.

We are officially starting today, with IMP tournament. Last year we had 107 pairs at the IMP tournament, and we are expecting a little bit more this year, about 130. We are starting at 4 p.m. Please keep in mind that you should register for every pairs tournament at least 4 hours hours earlier. Registration is possible only online. If you are late, as you usually are, and you still would like to join, please send us email to pulabridge@gmail.com. If there are dropouts you will be invited to join. Please do not forget to unregister if you decide not to play. If you cancel within 24 hours before the start of the tournament, also inform us by e-mail.

For all the tournaments you will pay at the table. Please prepare exact amount of money. For both IMP pairs entry is 25 euro/player (15 per junior).

Really very important, nothing new, but to remind you: You are responsible for entering the correct result into BridgeMate. If you, however, somehow miss-score, there is only very short time available to make corrections: one hour after the tournament. We cannot accept later complains so please, just check the result after every board. Soon after the tournament unofficial results will be published and you will have one hour to report an error. You have to do it by sending email to pulabridge@gmail.com.

Once you have registered, there is nothing much you should do before the tournament except arrive to the playing room 15 minutes before the start (3.45 p.m. for this tournament) and find your table. Positions will be displayed online one hour before the start (3 p.m.), again, at pulabridgefestival.com.

We are not one of those tournaments where drinking is forbidden, but please don't stone yourself during the first tournament: you have eight days, and many chances. While we encourage relaxed atmosphere and friendly attitude – we will be forced to exclude you from the tournament if you bother other players or make noise. So one drink every 4-5 rounds is optimal, three drinks during the session. We know, we have been there. Don't forget you will have plenty of time to drink after the tournament is over. With our (new) schedule you are free after 8 p.m. or even a bit earlier.

We will play 13-15 rounds, 2 hands per round. One round is 15 minutes and there is 1 minute break between rounds. Please do not go smoking, unless you can't help yourself, But even if you go out, do not come near other players, and don't use smartphone. Automatic penalties will apply.

The goal of today's tournament is, besides having fun, to get lot of IMPs and the easiest way to get IMPs is by taking tricks. Interestingly sometimes a trick brings only one IMP (there are rumours that tricks that bring no IMPs also exist, but that is not reliable information), but sometimes it may bring as much as 30! If you are a very good player you may even know in advance how much a trick could earn, but if you are like us, just keep on taking them, more the merrier. Although my world champion friend Marina strongly disagrees, it doesn't even matter for the result if tricks are taken by you or your partner, so, you should equally enjoy the hand where you don't take any tricks, but your partner takes, lets say, thirteen.



IMP Pairs Winners 2021: Piotr Walczak & Janusz Kalida of Poland

It is the best to leave your mobile phone in your room, but if you take it with you it should be shut down, and left in an visible place near you. Be warned that having a mobile phone that is not openly displayed at the table is illegal, and so is looking at it at any point. Tournament directors will not be happy if they see you looking at your phone, and it could again cost you, guess what: IMPs. If there is a real need for you to use a phone during the tournament you should ask TD and he/she will help.

In every Pula tournament it is essential to be friendly towards your partner, opponents, officials, bartenders and all other beings you encounter. Remember how lucky we all are that we can be all together here again and for a week worry only about IMPs and MPs.

Enjoy this special reunion.

MIXED AND NON-MIXED TEAMS

Sunday, noon

"Mixed Team" is a squad of 4-6 players (minimum two men and minimum two women). In every round each man must play with a woman, while each woman must play with a man. Understandably, there is lot of confusion regarding this. For instance, you keep on asking me if two women can play together in mixed teams, and why not. Well they can not because a woman is not a man. Moreover, a team with only one woman is not mixed, not even if it's a team of only four players. Because 1<2. But, no drama, if your team doesn't fit mixed team description, then you are Non-mixed. You must be one or the other! If for any reason a Mixed team wants to play in the Non-mixed field, this is allowed but not recommended. In mixed events, we are old-fashioned so ladies decide if they want to be E or W, N or S. But, we let men take care of bridge-mates, boards and drinks. For non-mixed we don't have any rules of this type.

If you have any problem finding a team/pair/partner to play with, please post a massage at the tournament registration page or just e-mail Tihana at tihana@pilar.hr.

In both mixed and non-mixed teams, we will play 6 rounds, 8 boards per round. In this, as in all other teams tournaments, there will be two sessions with short (approximately one hour) break between them.

Entries will be collected at the table, during the first round. You would make us a great favour if you would collect money as a team and put it all in one envelope. For Mixed or Non-Mixted teams is 100 per team. If a team consists of juniors only (one adult is permitted), entry is 50 euro/team.

In the mixed teams first three tables will play with screens, and in Non-Mixed first two tables.

One (not necessarily the first table) match in Mixed teams will be broadcasted on BBO.

Orientation timetable:

1st round: 12.00 – 13.05 2nd round: 13.15-14.20 3rd round: 14.30-15.35

Short break

4th round: 16.30-17.35 5th round: 17.45-19.50 6th round: 19.00-20.05



Mixed Teams Winners 2021: PALATINUS of Hungary Peter Hodosi, Laszlo Honti, Katalin Mezei, Hanka Lajos



Non-mixed Teams Winners 2021: KONKRET of Poland

(Adam Blachino, not in this photo) Kacper Kopka, Bogdan Szulejewski, Adam Wujkow

So, it seems it is time to play now! I believe you have all relevant information, but in case you don't - please feel free to ask anyone from the tournament crew or send us email.



All you need to know

Registrations

All players have to be registered for the festival.

For each event, we will close registration 3-4 hours before the event. After that time, registrations will be possible only if it is convenient for organization. Starting positions will only be displayed online at pulabridgefestival.com -- no later than one hour before the start of the event. If you are looking for a partner or teammates, you can post your request online at the specific event, or contact the organizers (tihana@pilar.hr).

IMPORTANT: If you register for a tournament and later decide not to play - it is crucial to delete your names from the list of registered pairs/ teams. If you decide not to play less than 24 hours before the start of the tournament please inform us immediately (pulabridge@gmail.com).

Venue

The venue is the Congress Center of Park Plaza Histria (same as in previous years). If we reach over 150 pairs or 70 teams, we have additional playing space in the casino of hotel Histria, which is only one minute walk from the Congress Center.

Entries/Prizes

requested to put the entries in the envelopes on the as good as possible. tables before the start of the tournament. Juniors (born 1996 or later) get a discount in all pairs tournaments, and in team tournaments as long as there is no more than one adult on the team. Around 60% of the collected entries goes to the prizes for the best 10%-15% overall in a given event, and to the best in "special categories" (e.g. Mixed). Right after the entries are collected, prize amounts will be displayed at pulabridgefestival.com. Prizes should be collected the next day at the venue, right after Mission the end of that day's event - please bring an ID card. Cups will be awarded at the Victory Ceremony on September 17th.

Rules

We are playing this festival by The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, as long as they do not interfere Please do not ruin our effort by placing your killer tempo allows 15 minutes per two boards at pairs, on your full support. 65 minutes per 8 boards at teams, 50 minutes per 6

boards in BAM). Mobile phones MUST be switched off during the course of play in all events, otherwise automatic penalties apply. You are responsible for all results entered in the Bridgemate at your table. You should check all your results (online), and report any error, NO LATER THAN one hour after the end of every match (teams) or session (pairs). Later (but NOT more than 12 hours) comwill be considered plaints only was the organizers' fault.

Although the Pula Bridge Festival is very proud of our international TD team, we also still believe Appeals Committees composed of players. If you think that a ruling was not right, you are entitled to appeal (you should inform the TD right after the match). Appeal tax is 50 euro and it will be returned unless the Appeal is judged by the AC to be "without merit".

Systems, Alerts, styles

HUM and most of Brown stickers are not allowed except in finals A of the Open Teams. Please check with TD if you are in doubt. 1 club opening should be alerted if it doesn't promise at least 2 cards. 1NT needs to be alerted if it is not in the range of 14-18, balanced or semi balanced.

The entries are 25 euro/play/day for all main Please use STOP cards for your own protection. events. (e.g. BAM teams 100 euro per team, Mixed Keep in mind this is a very international tournament pairs 25 euro per player, and Open teams 200 eu- (30+ countries) and opponents may not be familiar ro/team - since it is a 2-3 day event). You are kindly with your methods and "standards" - try to explain

Dress code

PLEASE do not dress as you go to the beach. Any casual or smart casual will do -- for example Tshirts are perfectly fine. Please don't be barefoot or bare-belly. We are happy that you love your body, and that you are fully relaxed in Pula, but these firm rules set bv the we must follow them.

Please keep in mind that although many competitive, even world-class players gather in Pula, this is primarily a festival, a celebration, and not a battlefield. We nurture Pula as a venue for international, friendly games that every participant will enjoy.

with common decency and gentlemanship. Chief instinct above a pleasant atmosphere -- we are TD is Mr. Adam Magyar. Convention cards sure you can win without making others miserable. are not obligatory, but it is highly recommended for Here, we are in a business of making memories -your protection. Slow play cannot be tolerated since we have been doing so for the last 60 years, and as we have to follow a strict timetable – the official always, I am expecting and gratefully counting

Interview: Hanka Lajos

Hanka Lajos of Hungary was awarded the title of Player of Pula Bridge Festival 2021. She won both Mixed Teams and Open Pairs, she is still a junior and she was working as a caddy at many Pula festivals. A perfect candidate!

So, you are The player of the 59th International Pula Bridge festival, congratulations! How do you feel about it, did you expect it?

It feels great, thanks. Before we started playing the open pairs, I wouldn't even have dreamt of it. Afterwards, knowing all the results, I was hoping for it. My partner, Peter Hodosi, had all the same good results, but it was me who got the prize, probably because I'm still a junior.

When did you start to play bridge? Please describe your bridge career so far.

I started playing in 2014, at a math camp. By now I've been playing in Hungarian junior teams for years, and also, as of last year, in the women's team. My partner of six years is Villő Szűcs, we play almost all major events together. Most recently, our U31 team qualified for next year's world championship.

What are your bridge plans and dreams for the future?

We still have a few years in this new U31 category, and many more in the women category. I'm not yet sure where our limits are, but we'll see.

What is the most important thing in the partnership? What do you expect from a good partner? What are you offering?

I think it's great to have a long-term partnership where your attitude and affinity to the game, your ambition and way of improving are similar to your partner's. I'm lucky to have that with Villő.

What is the best thing about bridge?

Lots of puzzles and eureka moments.

Does bridge really matter? Why?

Probably not in the grand scheme of things, but for many it is enjoyable, fulfilling and a way of making friends.

Tell us something about yourself, what do you do when you don't play bridge?

I've studied math and sociology. This year I'm starting a masters in statistics and data analytics. I'm not exactly sure where I'll end up after.

What are the biggest problems of bridge as a game these days? How could we solve it?



Hanka Lajos: Player of Pula Bridge Festival 2021.

A big problem is getting people to start playing the game. I'm not sure about the solution, but I've seen successful examples. In 2020, the Hungarian federation started a junior program. Compared to previous years, there are now lots of promising youngsters.

What would be your advice to a young player who has just started to learn bridge?

I think it's okay to just go with what you enjoy most, whether it is solving quizzes or playing lots of hands. In the long term you won't improve fast unless you talk about bridge with good players. And it's probably too early to think up unusual bidding conventions.

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What is your best memory from Pula bridge festival?

It is great to play in tournaments of this size. I remember how exciting this made my first time in Pula. It is still a great experience.

Give us one interesting hand.

Bd.	15 S NS	NORTH ♠ K10876 ♥ 72 ♦ 962 ♠ AKJ	
	WEST		EAST ♠ Q5 ♥ 10954 ♠ AKQJ754 ♣ -
		SOUTH ♠ AJ42 ♥ KJ ♠ 83 ♣ Q9642	

It's a pairs game, you're playing 4S from the South hand after this bidding:

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♣
pass	1 ♥ ¹	2♦	2♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

¹ - 4+ spades

The play starts with three rounds of diamonds, giving you the chance to make the contract. You ruff the third round with the jack, West discards two hearts (seemingly encouraging). After drawing trumps, you find out the club distribution. There are two straightforward options: playing East either for the ace or, alternatively, the queen of hearts. The third option is to play West for the ace by squeezing him to bare his ace or discard a second club (after you discarded one club and one heart from your hand).

Why did West pass with 2515? Why didn't East switch to hearts to get himself one or more club ruffs? I didn't know what to think.

The third line of play results in 4S -2 if East has the ace. I didn't dare risk it. So I missed out on a top board.



Peter Hodosi, Hanka Lajos, Tihana Brkljačić, Laszlo Honti, and Katalin Mezei at Victory Ceremony.

The Rabbi's Rule

By Mate Meštrić

Is quite simple really, and states:

If the king is singleton, play the ace!

Unfortunately, with the advent of assorted technological gizmos that possess enormous tracking potential, be they cameras, databases or artificial intelligences pouring over vast sets of data, should you apply the rabbi's rule successfully in anything but a sparing manner, you are quite likely to summon the wrath of various internet do-gooders (with too much free time on their hands) or even the dreaded acronymic three lettered feline investigators who will doubtlessly portrait your actions as nefarious rather than clairvoyant.

With the pleasure of felting the kingleton being what it is, is there anything we as bridge players can do these days, to once again bask in the excruciating agony of our unnerved opponents as they impotently play their king under the ace, without excessively worrying on the legal ramifications of our act? The answer to this problem isn't at all uncommon, in fact it is almost a golden rule in bridge: "If in doubt, run your long suit."

In the following example from the recently played MIX finals in Wroclaw, after a short and sweet auction of 1NT-3♠; 3♦-6♦, East found herself in a diamond slam on these cards:

> **WEST EAST** ♠ A7 ♠ KQ AK ♥ Q432 ♦ KJ10832 Q7 ♣ 643 ♣ AQJ72

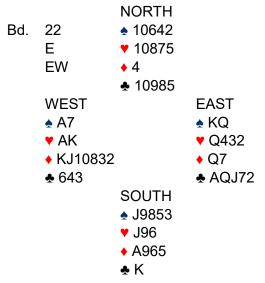
Lead: ♦x, plan the play.

Superficial analysis will conclude the need for the club king to be onside, but applying the golden rule, declarer ran all her winners before committing to the club finesse.

> **WEST EAST y y** 3 **♦** 2 **•** -♣ 64 ♣ AQ

When the last diamond was played in the three card end position above, North was forced to discard a third club to retain her heart guard, and declarer played the club ace to the penultimate trick dropping the singleton king.

The whole hand:



West De Wijs - 3♣ 6♦	North Sanna C pass all pass	East V. Armin 1NT 3•	South Nystrom pass pass
West Helgemo - 6NT	North S.Drijver - all pass	East Larsson 1NT	South Lund Madsen pass

One could not be faulted for hoping to win some IMPs on this deal, but it was not to be. On the other table Helgemo produced an even more agricultural auction of 1NT-6NT and the deal was made along similar lines for a win of 2IMPs. It was made more difficult by a spade lead, and a spade continuation which created difficulties in unblocking hearts, but declarer eventually got it right.

If you take something from this article, take that we live in a different age now, one who the pessimist might describe as a fast changing technological dystopia, and one cannot therefore freely use the old adage of "One peek is worth two finesses" lest he attract unwanted scrutiny, but rather one must be shrewd about it, so run your winners and say the civilized and clever sounding: "It was a show-up squeeze!"

60 PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL

FRI, SEPT 9TH 4 P.M. WELCOME PAIRS: single session: 24-26 boards

SAT, SEPT 10TH 4 P.M. IMP PAIRS: single session: 26-30 boards

SUN, SEPT 11TH 12 P.M. MIXED & NON-MIXED TEAMS: 3 rounds of 8 boards

4 P.M. MIXED & NON-MIXED TEAMS: 3 rounds of 8 boards

MON, SEPT 12TH 12 P.M. BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS: 4 rounds of 6 boards

4 P.M. BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS: 3 rounds of 6 boards

10 P.M. MADHATTER'S MIDNIGHT KARAOKE PARTY

TUE, SEPT 13TH 4 P.M. LARA MIXED & NON-MIXED PAIRS

single sesssion: 26-30 boards

WED, SEPT 14TH 12 P.M. OPEN TEAMS - QUALIFIER: 3 rounds of 8 boards

4 P.M. OPEN TEAMS - A & B GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards

THU, SEPT 15TH 12 P.M. OPEN TEAMS - A & B GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards

4 P.M. OPEN TEAMS - MORE GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards

FRI, SEPT 16TH 11 A.M. OPEN TEAMS - FINALS GROUP A: 3 rounds of 8 boards

FRI, SEPT 16TH 4 P.M. BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS of 10 boards

SAT, SEPT 17TH 1 P.M. BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS of 10 boards

SAT, SEPT 17TH 9 P.M. VICTORY CEREMONY

SAT, SEPT 17TH PARTY

SEPT, 18TH -21ST 5 P.M. DAILY ADDITIONAL PAIRS

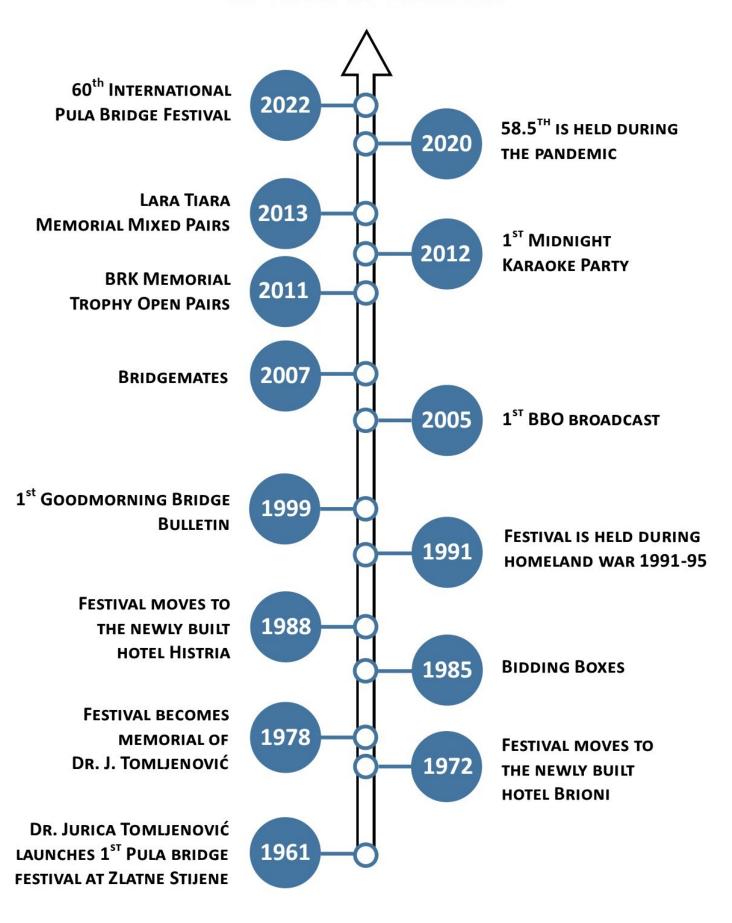
NUMBER OF PLAYERS IS LIMITED
REGISTRATION ONLY ONLINE AT: pulabridgefestival.com





PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL

60 YEARS OF MEMORIES





Taxi Goran +385 99 678 1913

Offers fixed price of transfers:

Airport - Histria: by car 250 Kn, by mini van 350 Kn Histria - Pula center: car 100 Kn, by mini van 150 Kn Horizont - Histria: by car 80 Kn, by mini van 120 Kn

- car is comfortable for four persons, mini van for eight
- 1 euro is cca 7.6 Kn



Restaurant Boschetto

Very nice, friendly place near the tennis courts, 500 meters from the venue. Decent food and reasonable prices. This restaurant will host us for Madhatter's Karaoke Party. They will stay open every day until there are guests (2 a.m.). So this is the place to go after the tournaments for dinner or drinks. Most of other places around close at 11 or 12. They accept only cash!

Restaurant Yacht Club

Only about 100 meters from the venue, down on the sea shore, one of Croatia best fish restaurants with breath-taking views. During the day you can also have a snack or just a cocktail and enjoy.

Reasonably priced for a restaurant of this level. For a bigger groups (especially in the evenings, booking is recommended.





Restaurant Kuglana

The closest restaurant to the venue, maybe 50 meters, between Histria and Park Plaza Verudela, right across the Histria Wing hotel. Lot of various dishes, from as simple as ham and eggs and pizza to Istrian and Croatian specialities. It is not expensive and you can get a decent dish for 100-150 Kn (15-20 euro). They usually do not take bookings as it is always crowded anyway. They also serve breakfast.

Ribarska koliba

This is a famous fish restaurant about 20 minutes walk from the venue, in marina. You can see Ribarska koliba from windows of the main playing. It is rather expensive and booking is usually required. Michelin Guide's Point Of View: This restaurant in the Ribarska Koliba Resort is situated near the Marina Veruda which can be admired through the large picture windows or from the restaurant's attractive terrace. Delicious Mediterranean cuisine takes pride of place on the menu, ranging from pasta-based starters to fish and seafood dishes made from the freshest ingredients, although a few meat-based specialities also feature.

Reminders:

- Please register on time;
- Find your position for every tournament it will be published online at the tournament webpage, one hour before the start of the tournament;
- Come to the venue 15 minutes before the start and find your table;
- All entries are paid at the table: Please prepare the exact amount of money or even better put the money for the whole team in one envelope.
- Switch off your mobile phone during the tournaments (you can turn it on between team matches);
- Respect the time (15 minutes per two boards in pairs tournaments, about 60 minutes for 8 boards in teams):
- Carefully check results in bridgemates;
- Once the session/match is over check the results (published online). Report any error immediately at pulabridge@gmail.com (you have one hour after the first results are published);
- Official results will be published approximately 12 hours after the tournament. If you won a prize you should collect it the next day at the venue, right after the end of that day's event;
- If you win a tournament, please either stay at the venue until we find you to take a photo, or take a photo yourself and send us.

Thank you,

The Crew

PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL DECLARATION

Hereby I declare
While it may sound unconventional
That *Pula Bridge Festival*Turns invitational.

Please accept my apologizes
I am just too old for surprises.

To receive your invitation Proceed with registration You will get confirmation Upon verification.

But, I sustain the right to send you home If you are suffering from a cheating syndrome.

It's nothing personal
Just stay away.
Yes, we are all mad here
But mad in a good way

February, 2019

