

Goodmorning Bridge

Pula Bridge Festival Online Bulletin

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Dear Pula Players,

Here we are at the beginning of the 61st International Pula bridge festival. We call it Pula festival, but that's its official name.

I wish you all warm welcome to the magnificent city of Pula, our venue Park Plaza Histria, and the 61st edition of the festival!

I am so happy and grateful that you decided to join Pula festival (again). Pula bridge festival will do everything to justify the trust and make this festival enjoyable and memorable for all.

It seems that weather will be warm throughout the festival, we are expecting lot of sun and daily temperatures of about 25 Celsius, and the sea is still warm, 23-24 Celsius.

We have almost 500 registered players from over thirty countries and five continents. Although we don't have any new country this year, I believe that so far we never had five continents in the same year. Really cool, isn't it! We expect to have about 130-150 pairs at main pairs and 60-70 teams at main teams, which is certainly enough for highly competitive tournament and great prizes. There are many world class stars coming, but lets not mention any names, they are all displayed at [registration list](#).

Yesterday 49 pairs played Welcome tournament, and Polish pair Krzysztof Kujawa & Tomasz Pilch were celebrating first place. For IMP tournament that will be held today afternoon we already have over 110 registered pairs. Please remember to [register](#) on time (no later than 2 p.m.)

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 broaden this space if needed :). We do not have Casino this year since it transformed to a jazz club.

Registrations are available only [online](#) and will close six 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 pulabridge@gmail.com 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 usual, Madhatter is inviting you to his Teams Challenge and Karaoke Party that will be held on Monday, starting slowly at 9.30 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 have a really loud party without disturbing other guests.

This year we are introducing another event *PuBridge Quiz*, which will take place on Thursday 9.30. We will announce venue soon. So, this quiz will be similar to other pub quizzes, but on the topic of bridge. There will be several games in three stages: Qualifications, Semifinals and Finals. Teams of 4-8 players can enter.

Finally, after the Victory ceremony on Saturday 16th, we will have a dancing party, probably again at Boschetto, but you will be informed on time.

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 sure everyone is having the best experience.

This is also opportunity to thank those who were especially engaged in preparations, Kristian and Jurica, Adam, Ogi, 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.

It starts here & now!

RESULTS

WELCOME PAIRS

1	<u>Krzysztof Kujawa (POL) - Tomasz Pilch (POL)</u>	63.04%
2	<u>steven de donder (BEL) - Jens Jossaer (BEL)</u>	60.20%
3	<u>Dries Olgers (NED) - Rob Jagroop (NED)</u>	60.05%
4	<u>Mate Meštrić (CRO) - marshall lewis (CRO)</u>	59.03%
5	<u>Tim Van de Pavverd (NED) - Felix Leufkens (NED)</u>	57.78%
6	<u>May Sakr (USA) - Jacek Pszczola (POL)</u>	57.21%
7	<u>Maja Żabierok (POL) - Hubert Urban (POL)</u>	56.86%
8	<u>Elżbieta Waniurska (POL) - Piotr Waniurski (POL)</u>	56.79%
9	<u>Bartłomiej Kamelski (POL) - Marek Kamelski (POL)</u>	56.10%
10	<u>jerzy stworzewicz (POL) - Lukasz Stworzewicz (POL)</u>	55.35%
11	<u>JAWORSKI MAREK (POL) - Grzegorz Superson (POL)</u>	54.78%
12	<u>Andrzej Dudzik (POL) - Andrzej Lubojemski (POL)</u>	54.77%
13	<u>Arie Teeuw (NED) - Otto van Schravendijk (NED)</u>	54.68%
14	<u>Georgi Karakolev (BUL) - Georgi Hristov (BUL)</u>	54.62%
15	<u>Janis Cimins (LAT) - Ilze Mikelsone (LAT)</u>	54.60%
16	<u>Marion Ründal (EST) - Ivar Kalma (EST)</u>	54.43%
17	<u>Marek Witek (POL) - Jonas Drobullis (USA)</u>	53.78%
18	<u>Eva Bahníková (CZE) - Petr Bahník (CZE)</u>	53.51%
19	<u>Milka Ivančić (CRO) - Renata Müller (CRO)</u>	52.42%
20	<u>Wojciech Strzemecki (POL) - Przemysław Zawada (POL)</u>	52.11%
21	<u>Nicusor-Mugurel Tecusan (ROU) - Gjorgje Müller (CRO)</u>	52.09%
22	<u>djordje poljak (SRB) - Gorana Mitić (SRB)</u>	52.01%
23	<u>Wim Vanparijs (BEL) - Wouter Van den hove (BEL)</u>	51.76%
24	<u>Axel Johannsson (AUS) - Karen McCallum (USA)</u>	51.09%
25	<u>Andrzej Hycnar (POL) - Dariusz Sosin (POL)</u>	50.94%
26	<u>Eduard Schnöll (AUT) - Roman Siwiec</u>	50.52%
27	<u>ana zorana BRAJOVIC (SRB) - Olga Simic (SRB)</u>	50.33%
28	<u>Sergei Mironov (SRB) - Anastasiia Mironova (SRB)</u>	50.08%
29	<u>Aarnout Helmich (NED) - Anneke van der Meer (NED)</u>	49.58%
30	<u>Jüri Aava (EST) - Mikk Mirme (EST)</u>	49.25%
31	<u>Ahmed Elselehdar (EGY) - Olgu Seker (TUR)</u>	49.00%
32	<u>Abdelrahman Khedr (EGY) - Daliah Abdulghaffar (EGY)</u>	48.08%
32	<u>Pavel Bobrov (GER) - Frank Dethlefsen (GER)</u>	48.08%
34	<u>Leszek Kawski (POL) - JAN STYCZYŃSKI (POL)</u>	47.41%
35	<u>ALLISON HOWARD (USA) - michael cappelletti (USA)</u>	47.32%
36	<u>Charlotte Baumgart (GER) - Sibrand van Oosten (NED)</u>	46.15%
37	<u>Frank van Engelen (NED) - Bas Schalk (NED)</u>	45.92%
38	<u>Renate Adelsberger (AUT) - Heimo Adelsberger (AUT)</u>	45.15%
39	<u>Julie Anderson (USA) - Dorel Livescu (USA)</u>	44.58%
40	<u>Mirjana Barisić (SRB) - Vuk Marković (SRB)</u>	43.56%
41	<u>Melanie Nieuweboer (NED) - Jack Kranenburg (NED)</u>	42.99%
42	<u>Basar doga Seker (CZE) - Andrea Stanković (CRO)</u>	42.47%
43	<u>Domagoj Virović (CRO) - Josip Čobanov (CRO)</u>	41.97%
44	<u>Aleksandar Fain (SRB) - Opacic Djuro (SRB)</u>	40.38%
45	<u>Valentina Milenković (SRB) - Miodrag Malović (SRB)</u>	40.30%
46	<u>Krzysztof Kluf - Marek Banasinski</u>	39.98%
47	<u>Fulvio Milić (CRO) - ognjen škreblin (CRO)</u>	39.63%
48	<u>Igor Mandalinić (CRO) - Evelina Mandalinić (CRO)</u>	38.96%
49	<u>Krzysztof Buras (POL) - Tadeusz Laszczak (POL)</u>	38.29%

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMP PAIRS

Saturday, 4 p.m.

We are officially starting today, with IMP tournament. We are expecting slightly over 100 pairs. We are starting at 4 p.m. Please keep in mind that you should register for every pairs tournament at least 6 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 the 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 will play 13-15 rounds, 2 hands per round. One round is 15 minutes and there is 1 minute break between rounds, so we expect to finish around 8 p.m. Please do not go smoking, unless you really 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, and you will say "Why me?".

The goal of today's tournament is, to have lot of fun and lot of IMPs. There are many ways of collecting IMPs. For example you may bid and make vulnerable games and slams, or you can double them and take 800s and 1100s. If oponents are willing to cooperate, reliable source ofimps are made doubled contracts, especially partscores. But there is a trick, unlike matchpoints, where you can not get less than 0, at IMPs tournament you can also loseimps on any board. Imagine, -13! That is kind of depressing. We checked scoresheet of last years winners, Steven and Clovis and discovered

that their biggest gains were three boards where they made vulnerable games and slams. But actually the secret of their success may be not giving away more than 3imps on any board. For Steven it is not the first time winning IMPs in Pula, as he achieved the same about 10 years ago with Richard Probst.

Unlike in prepandemic age, last year modest 68imps were enough to win the tournament. Since recession got even deeper in 2023, we expect that this year even 60imps may be enough.



IMP Pairs Winners 2022: Steven de Donder and Clovis Dehaye (Belgium)

Looking at the results from 2022, Belgians are obvious favourites, naturalimps collectors. Polish, Dutch and Americans are also dangerous, whereas the other nations seem to be more oriented towards fun collecting during this first event.

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.

1. Steven de Donder (BEL) - Clovis Dehaye (BEL) 68.00
2. Ines Meersman (BEL) - Wouter Van den hove (BEL) 47.00
3. Grzegorz Narkiewicz (POL) - Jacek Latomski (POL) 44.00
3. Wim van Luijk (NED) - Rob Jagroop (NED) 44.00
5. Allison Howard (USA) - Michael Cappelletti (USA) 42.00

MIXED AND NON-MIXED TEAMS

Sunday, noon

Sunday is reserved for two parallel events: Mixed and Non-Mixed Teams. The format and the schedule is the same, only composition of teams differs.

If you have any problem finding a team/pair/partner to play with, please post a message 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. Please be careful to check results in BridgeMates and to report any errors immediately.

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-Mixed teams is 100 euro per team. If a team consists of juniors only (one adult is permitted), entry is 50 euro/team. Please prepare exact amount.

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

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 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. 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, they are on their own.

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

Mixed Teams Winners 2022:

1. Smit Yke Smit (NED) Ozlem Kandolu (TUR) Aarnout Helmich (NED) Cheryl van der Toorn (NED) 79.14
2. Csapi Kovacs András (HUN) Klára Makara (HUN) Kata Vass (HUN) Péter Gál (HUN) 69.68
3. XXXYXXXY Katalin Mezei (HUN) László Honti (HUN) Renata Muller (CRO) Marshall Lewis (CRO) 66.26
4. Praha Petr Bahník (CZE) Eva Bahníková (CZE) Milan Macura (CZE) Michaela Macurova (CZE) 63.98
5. Apa Heili Downunder Axel Johannsson (AUS) Karen McCallum (USA) Peter Gill (AUS) Liz Sylvester (AUS) 63.59

Players from seven different countries were placed among 5 best mixed teams in 2022. It seems that mixed-countries teams achieve best results as among five best teams in 2022, three were international. So, if you did not find the team for mixed maybe you should look across the borders of your country.

Average of 13 VPs per round was enough to win Mixed Teams, so you should be optimistic: it is only 3 VPs more than average, barely one game swing. Of course you can do it. And very important, unlike in IMP pairs, here are imps converted to VPs, and you can't go minus in VPs.

In the Non-Mixed Teams, situation is, as we can see, much more difficult as you needed almost 14 VPs per round to win. Poland is absolutely dominating this field, but Lithuania, Belgium, Slovenia and The Netherlands have some chances too. There were no women in the first five teams of Non-Mixed-Pairs last year so we are hoping some feminists will change that in 2023.

Non-Mixed Teams Winners 2022:

1. RADO Jonas Drobulis (LTU) Bogdan Szulejewski (POL) Jacek Lesniczak (POL) Marek Witek (POL) 83.96
2. GienekJanusz Kurdej (POL) Leszek Tarnogrodzki (POL) 69.84
3. Steven & Co. Steven de Donder (BEL) Clovis Dehaye (BEL) Milan PAVLIN (SLO) Alfonz Šumer (SLO) 69.30
4. Bridge24.pl K. Buras W. Strzemecki G. Narkiewicz P. Marcinowski J. Latomski (ALL POL) 63.47
5. Crash Leo Huvers (NED) Wisse Huvers (NED) Stefan Thorpe (NED) Sibrand Van Oosten (NED) 63.02

Madhatter's MIDNIGHT



KARAOKE



**WE ARE
BACK!**



Restaurant Boschetto (Boškariin)
500 meters from the venue

**TEAM UP FOR
MADHATTER'S
CHALLENGES!**

MoonDay, September 11, starting 9.30 p.m.

DRESS CODE: Show your respect by wearing a hat

Zia Mahmood published a new book, everyone is talking about. The book name is *Bridge, A Love Story*.

This book is a compelling memoir of Zia and his passion for the greatest game ever invented.

Zia unlocks his personal bridge vault to share the secrets to his remarkable and enduring success for over 50 years. Fast-paced, irreverent, humorous and instructive, this book is for all levels, from beginner to super-expert. Join him as he travels the world playing mega high-stakes game in exclusive clubs as well as under the spotlight at international tournaments.

In this book, Zia talks about topics such as...

- Who does Zia believe is the greatest player in the world?
- Why is bridge sexy?
- How did the rampant cheating scandals wreak havoc on the game?

Pula is the first European tournament where the book is sold, so don't miss the chance to get it today, right after IMP tournament!

Here are some thoughts about the book:

Reading *Bridge My Way* as a teenager, I fell madly in love with the game. Now in my fifties, *Bridge, A love Story* brings back the same passion. In both books, Zia vividly explains why bridge is so much more than just a game; it's life.

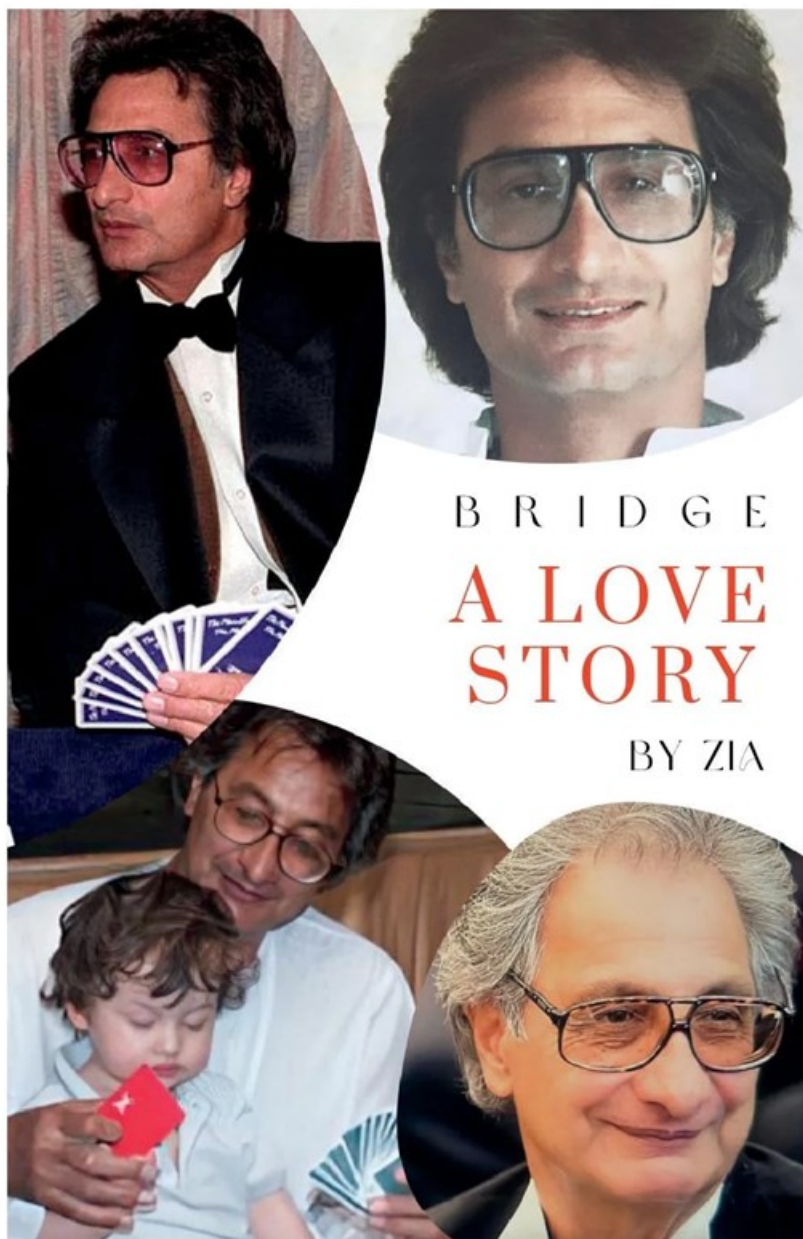
Boye Brogeland

In his elegant and literally style, Zia shares intimate details of his life as a professional bridge player. He immediately captures the interest of a wide range of players, from world champions to casual participants, as he brings to life the details of his adventure. You'll love this book. It's personal and insightful.

*Audrey Grant,
Acclaimed Bridge Teacher*

Zia is a once-in-a-generation bridge player. He's one of my favourite partners; when I play with him, I don't have to play against him. He has more charisma and style than any other player on the planet. You'll find many of Zia's secrets in this terrific book.

Jeff Meckstroth



Why would I buy this book?

- It's a great book, so you may want to read it and have it in your collection.
- Everybody is talking about it. Be prepared for a discussion!
- Buy it for your partner. It is a great way to say sorry for all the blunders you made during the Festival.
- Buy it for your partner as a subtle suggestion s/he could use a bridge book.
- By buying the book you automatically participate in the Pula festival lottery where you can win festival souvenirs such as T-shirt, a bag or a hat.

You can buy the book in the playing area right after the IMP tournament on Saturday at promotional rate of 25 euro.



PUBridge QUIZ

Teams of 4-8 persons are invited to enter the competition: Find your team, choose a name and register by Thursday 8 p.m. online. No entry fees.

FORMAT:

Qualifications: Knowledge quiz related to various aspects of bridge (e.g. history, people, techniques, systems)

Semifinals: Association game related to bridge - best four teams

Finals: How well do you know your partner/team-mate/friend? (bridge attitudes and habits) - best two teams

Winner gets a cup and a sponsor prize.

Venue:
to be announced

TEAM UP FOR
PUBridge QUIZ!

Thursday, September 14, starting 9.30 p.m.

All you need to know

Registrations

All players have to be [registered](#) for the festival. If you did not register so far, please do it immediately at pulabridgefestival.com. Once you are on registration list, you get Pula ID (first column on the list), and this is the number to put in [bridgemates](#).

For each event, the [registration](#) deadline is 6 hours before the start of that contest. 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 same building same floor.

Entries/Prizes

The entries are 25 euro/play/day for all main events. (e.g. BAM teams 100 euro per team, Mixed pairs 25 euro per player, and Open teams 200 euro/team - since it is a 2-3 day event). You are kindly requested to put the entries in the envelopes on the tables before the start of the tournament. Juniors (born 1997 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 the end of that day's event – please bring an ID card. Cups will be awarded at the Victory Ceremony on September 16th.

Rules

We are playing this festival by The Laws of Duplicate Bridge 2017, as long as they do not interfere with common decency and gentlemanship. Chief TD is Mr. Adam Magyar. Convention card is not obligatory, but it is highly recommended for your protection. Slow play cannot be tolerated since we have to follow a strict timetable – the official tempo allows 15

minutes per two boards at pairs, 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). You can either complain to TD, or send email to pulabridge@gmail.com. Later (but NOT more than 12 hours) complaints will be considered only if it was the organizers' fault.

Although the Pula Bridge Festival is very proud of our international TD team, we also still believe in 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.

Please use STOP cards for your own protection. Keep in mind this is a very international tournament (30+ countries) and opponents may not be familiar with your methods and "standards" - try to explain as good as possible.

Dress code

PLEASE do not dress as you go to the beach. Any casual or smart casual will do -- for example T-shirts 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 are firm rules set by the hotel.

Mission

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 and feel comfortable even if s/he is just a beginner.

Please do not ruin our effort by placing your killer instinct above a pleasant atmosphere -- we are sure you can win without making others miserable. Here, we are in a business of making memories --we have been doing so for the last 60 years, and as always, I am expecting and gratefully counting on your full support.

Interview: Sibrand van Oosten

You just won world youth teams championship and silver in U26 European pairs championship. Well done! As you are one of the top world top young players, we would like to hear your thoughts regarding bridge.

⇒ You decided to play professionally, was that difficult decision to make? What are the pros and cons? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Sibrand: To be honest it was the easiest decision I ever made. Studying didn't make me particularly happy, and the perspective of having a normal life and a 9-5 job seemed less appealing to me. I also struggled a lot to get myself to university on time in the morning. However, when the alarm went off at 8am during the weekend because I had some tournament, I never had any problems getting out of bed and motivating myself.

The biggest pro for me is doing something that makes me happy, and that I get to play all these events with and against some of my best friends.

But on the flipside there's a lot of job insecurity. Who knows what the professional bridge scene will look like in 10 years time? I hope I can enjoy playing full-time for as long as it lasts and when push comes to shove I might have to go for a career change, or start doing some teaching on the side.

⇒ What do you do as a bridge professional? How do you train? How much do you play?

Sibrand: I occasionally re-read books or do bridge master, I watch a bunch of vugraph when the USBF team trials, the European Teams, or the Bermuda Bowl are happening, and I go to the Dutch junior trainings (although I'm sadly ageing out this year). But mostly I just play, and crucially, analyze hands afterwards.

If I do come across a situation I haven't seen before, or I'm not sure what I should have done, I ask top-level players' opinions. I've played close to 5000 boards of in-person tournament bridge (excluding club games) in the past year and devoted countless hours to in-depth discussions over hands.

⇒ What is your greatest success so far, and what are your goals for future?

Sibrand: The greatest success was definitely the world u26 teams last month, and just behind that the World junior pairs championships one year prior. I hope I can replicate my junior successes against the big boys in a couple of years. :)



⇒ What would you suggest to a young player who wants to improve in bridge?

Sibrand:

-Put a similar amount of effort into analyzing boards as into playing them.

-If at all possible, make sure to play with different partners who play better than you do. It's hard to come up with brilliant things or notice small errors all on your own, it really helps to have a good player who can point them out to you (in a healthy manner).

-Look for mistakes in your game to improve on, but also don't be too hard on yourself.

⇒ How can we get more young people to get interested in bridge? Should we?

Sibrand: Of course we should get young people interested in bridge – It would be a shame if we don't have anybody to compete against in two decades time.

What seems to be a problem is that few federations have a sound nation-wide approach to teaching young people to play bridge. Instead, it often comes down to individual initiatives, mostly school teachers with heaps of passion for the game. Sadly, I don't think I have the cure for cancer. But I'm sure we have a bunch of people with way more experience on this topic here in Pula, so I'd be interested in reading about their opinions in the next bulletin.

Interview: Sibrand van Oosten

⇒ *What are your best/worst qualities as a bridge player? What do you expect from your bridge partner?*

Sibrand: I've managed to get into shouting matches with partners on numerous occasions, which is obviously not a very healthy way to discuss boards/mistakes. But I'm working on it. One thing I'm happy about is that I've gotten a little more consistent over the past couple of months.

Ideally a partner not only plays well, but also manages to get you to play your best possible game. For example by finding the right words after disaster strikes.

⇒ *Matchpoints or IMPs?*

Sibrand: Matchpoints.



⇒ *Your girlfriend is also a bridge player. Is that important? Do girls fall for young bridge stars like you?*

Sibrand: I certainly like being able to talk about bridge together, because it's such an important part of my life. So it helps, but I don't think it's a necessity. And obviously all us young bridge stars can barely save ourselves from all the girls falling for us. :D

⇒ *What do you do when you don't play or train?*

Sibrand: You mean when I'm traveling to/from a tournament? :) I've actually spent so much time on the road this year (been home approx. 40 days) that I can shamelessly say that I do nearly nothing when I'm at home.

I like watching sports, football in particular, I'm a season ticket holder of NAC Breda, and also support SC Freiburg, and I like playing board and card games (other than Bridge).

⇒ *It's now your second year in Pula. What do you like about this tournament? Give us a hand from last year Pula that you find fun or interesting.*

Sibrand: I thought the festival was well-run and I really liked the atmosphere last year, so that's what convinced me to come back.

I think it'll be no surprise that my favorite hand last year was actually playing with you, Tihana. :)

We had one agreement: Tihana doesn't declare 4-3 fits. So naturally, I had to park you in one. Board 13 of the Lara Mixed Pairs. (no opposition bidding) 1d – 1s – 2d – 2NT - ?

I have all these controls, but no tricks. 3NT will only stand a chance if you have good diamond support or we have very favorable breaks. For 4♠ however, my hand looks great, because you will likely be able to go into a crossruff, or establish diamonds in a kind of dummy reversal. As it turns out, 3NT makes only 9 tricks on a club lead and 4♠ can't be beaten, and when you managed to secure an over-trick you got us a 97% board. I hope you've forgiven me. :D

		NORTH	
Bd. 13		♠ AQ10	
N		♥ A62	
All		♦ A98732	
		♣ 5	
	WEST		EAST
	♠ 872		♠ K43
	♥ J1043		♥ 985
	♦ 64		♦ Q105
	♣ KQ76		♣ AJ93
		SOUTH	
		♠ J965	
		♥ KQ7	
		♦ KJ	
		♣ 10842	

West	North	East	South
B.Tuma	Sibrand	K.Tuma	Tihana
-	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	2♦	pass	2NT
pass	3♠	pass	3NT
pass	4♠	all pass	

SAME TOURNEY, SAME PARTNER, YET ALL DIFFERENT

By Srđan Srfa Katušić

Summer is heading towards its end and it's time for this year Pula bridge festival. For me its again the special one. I will play some tournaments with my old buddy and apartment-mate Faruk, some with my new regular partner Zlatko. Brk Open Pairs I'm reserving for my home-grown junior Filip, publicly also known as Srfić. We are doing well for last couple of years, but this year I'm little bit more anxious about it than usual. Why is that so? Well, as before some months, Filip was known as promising junior with some good results achieved playing with juniors or even with good old me. But, this summer things escalated.

First, he produced some miraculously good results with young Croatian junior team (Matko-Viktor, Bibi-Filip) at Open European Transnational Championship in Strasbourg, performing au-pair with gallery of top world players and partnerships, being among best in Swiss phase, then loosing tight match to team featuring world famous Italian stars, and ultimately missing by fraction of hair medal in side BAM event. But, as this was not enough, soon European Open junior pairs U31 championship in Veldhoven took place, where he played with Matko. They played steadily from first to last board in 9 sessions in 3 days and won silver medal!

What's the effect of all that fuss to our occasional partnership? Well, until now, I was feeling happy, yet generous for agreeing to play our largest pairs tournament with Filip. This year, it might be other way around, maybe he is one being generous. Changes in this direction are already visible in system preparation, I will even have to play famous new junior toy conventional opening, 2 clubs: game-force or garbage Stayman. Therefore, be prepared for some fun if this gem pops up at you table :)

To find a good board for this article, I researched results of last year Brk Open Pairs, looking for one where we did particularly well. Board 17th stands out clearly, as we recorded clean 100% top, not an easy task on tourney where same board is played about hundred times. I expected to see some crazy swingy distributional board, but case is quite opposite. We were playing against solid polish pair, and they produced straightforward sequence 1c-1s-1N-3N and Filip was to find a lead from this collection:

WEST
 ♠ K5
 ♥ A106
 ♦ Q987
 ♣ J862

His choice was six of hearts. That proved to be very efficient lead as full board looks like that:

Bd. 17	NORTH		
N	♠ A987		
-	♥ K85		
	♦ AJ64		
	♣ 95		
WEST		EAST	
♠ K5		♠ 10632	
♥ A106		♥ Q973	
♦ Q987		♦ K3	
♣ J862		♣ 1073	
	SOUTH		
	♠ QJ4		
	♥ J42		
	♦ 1052		
	♣ AKQ4		

West	North	East	South
-	pass	pass	1♣
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	3NT	all pass	

We developed our best suit quite fast in first three tricks, and declarer was left in miserable position. He tried to salvage something with doing right guesses in diamonds and spades, but all went even worsor for him and he ultimately finished three down. This of course is not argument that heart lead was clearly right and choice of a genius, and probably simulation would be needed to decide what is the best lead in theory. Way how those simulations are properly done is described in popular book 'Winning Notrump leads' by David Bird. However, its visible from this not that atypical actual layout, where partner has top honour in both red suits, and still heart lead works better, that heart lead is very reasonable, and this time it was a jackpot.

But what I like most about this board is that our top was not earned by some aggressive pre-empt, modernistic system approach or imagination of a genius that just happened to work this time.

Also, it was generated on quiet and peaceful looking board instead on some distributional freak. Top was earned by analytically thinking about your lead problem, realising that diamond lead is not automatic, making up your choice, sticking to your judgement, and collecting rewards. Isn't this algorithm essence of good bridge and life in general?

I'm so lucky that it is often used in my family :)

ANNIVERSARY QUIZ: 50 YEARS OF THE WORLD, THE BRIDGE WORLD, & The Bridge World (Chapter #1)

By Marshall C. Lewis

For me 2023 is a Golden Anniversary in many ways. 1973 was quite a memorable year -- starting with the very first week, during which my 21st birthday technically ushered me into the "Age Of Majority" -- although even after five decades of tournaments, polls, and bidding forums, my bidding continues to elude that statistical seal of approval. On a less personal note, that was also the year the US Senate and the Justice Department opened two investigations into the nefarious abuses of power committed by the Nixon Administration, which eventually (1974) culminated in a long-overdue impeachment of that vile president, and ultimately his resignation in disgrace. Hurrah -- sometimes Justice Gets Done, and can be Seen To Be Done. Not often enough, though -- which very naturally segues us into bridge.

1973 was also the year I attended my first NABC, where I even managed to win my first National Event. OKOKOK, as an ardent advocate of Full Disclosure, I have to confess it was just the Non-Masters Pairs -- even so it seemed to warrant champagne, and by a lucky coincidence I was now old enough to drink it. Legally, that is. My partner in this lowly triumph, Howard Hammer, was an ex-commando from some military unit I had never heard of, who had left the service for graduate school in philosophy at Indiana University, where we met at the bridge club and struck up an alliance. During this period he patiently guided me through the labyrinths of both Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Kaplan-Sheinwold System.

It is also through HH that I was first exposed to that globally preeminent bridge publication The Bridge World (this was decades before the peerless Croatian online bridge magazines SKVIZ and later on ŠTIH) -- commonly abbreviated as "TBW". As a reward for helping him exit the stigma-infested ranks of ACBL Non-Masterhood, HH gifted me with a subscription. He explained that the "Kaplan" in the name of our system was also the owner/publisher of the magazine -- so it behooved me to have constant monthly access to Edgar's wisdom, and that of TBW's elite crew of world-class contributors. My understanding of bridge has been immeasurably enhanced over the years by the many and diverse features in TBW -- meanwhile, alas, my seemingly

ineradicable MISunderstandings of the game can only be blamed on ... yes of course, who else ... Howard. (He in turn tried to accuse Wittgenstein, but the latter fled up a ladder and vanished, hauling up the ladder after him, so nothing more could be said.)

Nowadays in TBW there is a recurring feature called "Fifty Years Ago", obviously referenced in the title of the present article as well. Ironically, fifty years ago there was no such "Fifty Years Ago" column in the magazine -- mainly because that would have harked backward to six years before TBW was even founded. Today though we can merrily stroll together down Memory Lane -- at least my own personal retrospective Long and Winding Road -- upon which you will be presented with some bridge problems.



Back then.

Each edition of GMB at our 2023 Pula festival will contain an installment of this series. Following this explanatory preamble, you will encounter the first problem excavated from my Anniversary archive -- but not the solution. In a few days, the second installment will appear, containing the second problem -- along with the "story" attaching to this first one, which may or may not seem to deserve the label of "solution". Oh wait, did someone say something earlier about justice not always being done in bridge? Yes we all know that sometimes there is a truly Right Answer (analytically), sometimes there is just a Best Answer (statistically), and all too often there is only a random Winning Answer (i.e. at the table). Those players who prefer a "White to mate in three" kind of challenge may have better luck at the bar.

Problem #1

We will begin with a deal from that first NABC, where in second position you hold:

♠KT6
♥KQT
♦AQ9
♣J853

All are vulnerable playing IMPs. Dealer on your right opens 1♠ and you overcall 1N. Your LHO jumps to 3♠ and after a Pass from partner Opener goes on to 4♠. Though years of bitter experience have taught you that H-J is almost certain to come down on the table, you go ahead and lead H-K anyway because basically What Else? Clubs are also dangerous, and the field is probably going to lead a heart, so you do too. Dummy brings both bad news and good news: BAD -- Sure enough, ♥J is there winking at you; GOOD – At least he is not scoffing at you out loud, because ♥A is there behind him:

♠J985
♥AJ4
♦8765
♣K7

OK, declarer lets you hold the trick. Partner plays a middle-sized heart, while S follows with the deuce.

HOW DO YOU DEFEND AT TRICK TWO (@T2)?
WHAT IS YOUR RATIONALE?

Customer Service Advisory

Yes the editorial staff and I can hear you kvetching already:

“QUE?? ‘MIDDLE-SIZED HEART’?? IS THAT REALLY THE BEST YOU CAN DO??”

Patience, Grasshopper.

Suppose you'd been told partner plays ♥6. Or instead ♥7. What would you do with that information? Before you could make any confident use of it, here is everything else you would have to know as well:

- Is your partner ultra-reliable in his carding?
- Does your pair have firm agreements about what the default top-priority signal meaning is @T1?
- What IS that default top-priority meaning? (ATTITUDE? COUNT? Etc.)
- HOW does your pair signal the basic information -types? (STANDARD? REVERSE ATTITUDE? UDCA?)

(e) Does the lead of the King – or alternatively the Queen, if you so prefer – change any of the above?

(f) Is this a category of situation – based on the auction, lead, and structure of dummy – that calls for a re-prioritization in your partnership among the various T1 signal meanings? If for example your default is to signal Attitude, or maybe Attitude on the honor card led @T1, do the context-specific details here constitute an established type of ‘trigger’ which converts this into a Count situation? “Obvious -Shift” situation? Suit-Preference situation? Which one? How sure are you anyway?

(g) Even if your partnership has not discussed all of (f), which is extremely likely, does this seem like a set of circumstances where a shift-of-meaning – and in fact a shift to a PARTICULAR meaning – should be evident to both partners even without explicit discussion, simply on the basis of pure bridge logic?

(h) BOTTOM LINE: Unless you know (a)-(g), you wouldn't even know what partner's card @T1 meant.

Not only is there “occasionally” a lack of justice in bridge, very often there are lamentable lacunae in the dossier of evidence. The grim reality is that situations abound in which our natural desire to place crucial importance on partner's carding has to be set wistfully aside, for any number of reasons. This is one of those times. The only prudent way to approach this conundrum is to figure out as much as you possibly can without reference to partner's card @T1. Once that analytical process has taken you as far as it can, THEN if you want you can divide your solution into a set of If-Then contingency statements, even importing your own carding methods to do so. For example: “If ♥6, then ...” vs. “If ♥7, then ...” – or for that matter, even “If lowest missing heart, then ...” vs. “If highest missing heart, then”



Now.

Bermuda Bowl

By Mate Meštrić

A week ago the most important team tournament in the bridge world came to an end with the victory of the Swiss team. Their final opponents were the Norwegians, and the battle for the gold medal took place over six sessions, each consisting of sixteen boards.

This time, the quality of BBO broadcast was better than usual. For us, who sometimes spend days kibitzing international events, it can be annoying if undo is the most frequent move at the table. Still, only four matches from the whole world championship were broadcasted, and during semifinals BBO suddenly refused to cooperate resulting in several hours of vuegraph deprivation.

For me the most interesting aspect of kibitzing high level bridge is noticing a bid, or a sequence of bids that was taken at the table (especially if it was duplicated), that I would not have taken. Some of those differences are of course systemic or stylistic in nature, and some are a result of fatigue, but not all of them are, and some could easily indicate a "leak" in my own game. Here is three boards for you dear reader, to see if you would have taken the same action as some of the best in the world took at the table.

Let's start with a simple one, roughly 70% of boards these days are contested, and the simplest and most common way of entering an auction is a one level overcall. In my experience players have very different standards for what constitutes a simple one level overcall.

Both vulnerable, your opponent deals and opens 1♦, and you hold:

♠ QJ98x
♥ Jxx
♦ Axx
♣ xx

what action do you take?

If you did not bid 1♠, I have some bad news for you, the 1♠ overcall was bid (with varying results) on all four tables in the finals/playoffs of the Bermuda Bowl. Klukowski, Helgemo, Versace, Martel all bid it.

The full board:

Bd. 23	NORTH	
S	♠ 6542	
All	♥ Q1072	
	♦ J7	
	♣ Q64	
	WEST	EAST
	♠ QJ983	♠ K7
	♥ J86	♥ AK93
	♦ A86	♦ 932
	♣ 95	♣ A732
	SOUTH	
	♠ A10	
	♥ 64	
	♦ KQ1054	
	♣ KJ108	

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Bakke</i>	<i>Kalita</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
-	-	-	1♦
1♠	pass	2♦	pass
2♠	pass	3♠	all pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Helgemo</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Grude</i>	<i>Brink</i>
-	-	-	1♦
1♠	pass	2♦	pass
2♠	pass	2♦	X
XX	pass	3♠	all pass

The 1NT opening is the cornerstone of virtually every bidding system. What shapes it is opened on, the follow-ups via Stayman and Jacoby transfers are one of the first things we learned as bridge players. Is it right to bid the same way we were taught during beginner courses as later in life when we have some experience under our belt, and are there some changes we ought to be making?

Your partner opens 1NT (15-17) in second chair at unfavorable vulnerability, and you hold

♠ AQ9xx
♥ JT9
♦ J9x
♣ xx

What do you bid?

I think it is safe to say that Klukowski-Kalita were by far the best pair at the championship, not only did they lead the butler by a fair margin playing 80%+ boards in the round robin, but they also played ALL the boards in the quarterfinals, the semifinals and the finals, and eventually won the event. The choice Klukowski made at this deal is a simple one, he just bid 3NT.

The full board:

	NORTH		
Bd. 9	♠ 85		
N	♥ 7532		
EW	♦ AK743		
	♣ QJ		
	WEST		EAST
	♠ AQ976		♠ K10
	♥ J109		♥ A6
	♦ J96		♦ Q1052
	♣ 73		♣ AK1082
	SOUTH		
	♠ J432		
	♥ KQ84		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 9654		

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Grude	Kalita	Helgemo
-	pass	1NT	pass
3NT	all pass		

West	North	East	South
Boye	Novosad.	Bakke	Zimmermann
-	pass	1NT	pass
2♣	pass	2♦	pass
2♠	pass	3NT	all pass

Both vulnerable your partner deals and opens 1NT (15-17), what is your bid holding:

- ♠ QJ87
- ♥ xxx
- ♦ JT
- ♣ ATxx

The choice made by our leading pair was to bid a balanced game try eschewing the usage of Stayman. Partner accepted and duly made 9 tricks.

Notice that on both deals the 1NT opener was slightly off shape, but was routinely duplicated, and the only difference between the winners and the rest of the field in both the finals and the playoffs, is that the winners on both occasions chose not to try for a major suit fit. Perhaps there is something to the philosophy that holding a balanced 8 count, 10 tricks just might be too high. Bob Hamman's rule of bidding 3NT if it is one of the options might get slightly modified in the future to: There are no other options.

	NORTH		
Bd. 7	♠ K1064		
S	♥ A1065		
All	♦ Q		
	♣ J983		
	WEST		EAST
	♠ A2		♠ QJ87
	♥ K74		♥ 932
	♦ AK9742		♦ J10
	♣ 72		♣ A1054
	SOUTH		
	♠ 953		
	♥ QJ8		
	♦ 8653		
	♣ KQ6		

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	Grude	Kalita	Helgemo
-	-	-	pass
1NT	pass	2♠	pass
3♣	pass	3NT	all pass

West	North	East	South
Boye	Novosad.	Bakke	Zimmermann
-	-	-	pass
1NT	pass	2♣	pass
3♦	pass	3NT	all pass



The winner of the Bermuda Bowl 2023: Switzerland

61st PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL



FRI, SEPT 8TH	4 P.M.	WELCOME PAIRS: single session: 24-26 boards
SAT, SEPT 9TH	4 P.M.	IMP PAIRS: single session: 26-30 boards
SUN, SEPT 10TH	12 P.M.	MIXED & NON-MIXED TEAMS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	4.30 P.M.	MIXED & NON-MIXED TEAMS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
MON, SEPT 11TH	12 P.M.	BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS: 4 rounds of 6 boards
	5 P.M.	BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS: 3 rounds of 6 boards
	9.30 P.M.	MADHATTER'S MIDNIGHT KARAOKE PARTY Restaurant Boschetto (Boškarin)
TUE, SEPT 12TH	4 P.M.	LARA MIXED & NON-MIXED PAIRS single session: 26-30 boards
WED, SEPT 13TH	12 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - QUALIFIER: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	4.30 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - A & B GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
THU, SEPT 14TH	12 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - A & B GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	4.30 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - MORE GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
THU, SEPT 14TH	9.30 P.M.	PUBridge Quiz (venue to be announced)
FRI, SEPT 15TH	11 A.M.	OPEN TEAMS - FINALS GROUP A: 3 rounds of 8 boards
FRI, SEPT 15TH	4 P.M.	BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS of 10 boards
SAT, SEPT 16TH	1 P.M.	BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS of 10 boards
SAT, SEPT 16TH	9 P.M.	VICTORY CEREMONY & AFTPARTY
SAT, SEPT 16TH	after	PARTY
SEPT, 17TH -19TH	5 P.M.	DAILY ADDITIONAL PAIRS
WED, SEPT, 20TH	1 P.M.	TEAMS: CROATIA AGAINST THE WORLD



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Histria - Pula center: car 15 euro, by mini van 22 euro

Horizont - Histria: by car 12 euro, by mini van 15 euro

car is comfortable for four persons, mini van for eight persons



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.

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 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 room. 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.

Konoba Volme

This place is a bit further away, in Banjole, but it is worth visiting. It is a very nice restaurant with big terrace, very local and homey. Food is authentic Croatian, delicious and prices are in a lower range. You will need a car to get there. To make sure you get your table make a reservation +385 (98) 818265.



Restaurant Batelina (Gaultmillau review)



Restaurant Batelina is actually an old tavern in Banjole, a small town near Pula. It is not particularly decorated, nor does it have any advantages such as a garden, a special view or an interesting interior design, yet it is incredibly popular and it is very difficult to get a reservation. The first reason is the always fresh fish and seafood, but also the reduced working hours. An additional reason is certainly their famous chef David Skoko, a cook that appears almost every day on TV. Although he does not cook at Batelina on a daily basis, he is the one who creates the menu. The appetizers are varied and they serve 6

or 7 of them in small bowls or little plates: marinated sardines, sardines in savor (fried and marinated) , sea bass ceviche, pickled vegetables, salads... Our favourite was the grancigula, a delicious crab that is harder to find in restaurants these days. All dishes are based on a traditional and simple method of preparation. First of all, there are raw or grilled scampi, as well as various fish, depending on the day's catch, but also traditional cuttlefish brodetto, squid noodles with fried onions, which are definitely to recommend. If you expect top-quality dishes, prepared with imaginative culinary techniques, paired with wines, and all this in an elegant space – well, you won't find it here. Rather, we would say that Batelina is a tavern of "raw passions", basic, simple and traditional. Important notice: in Batelina they don't accept credit cards.

AQUARIUM PULA
61ST PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL
8.9.-21.9.2023.
10% DISCOUNT

The advertisement features a background image of several clownfish swimming near a large, white, branching piece of coral. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Aquarium Pula

Aquarium Pula is the most visited public aquarium in Croatia whose mission is to show the beauty and diversity of the underwater world and emphasize the need for its protection. The aquarium itself is settled in a 130 year old fort Verudela (less than 1 km from the venue), part of the once mighty Austro – Hungarian defence complex Fortress Pula, where the centennial military history of Pula is combined in a unique way with the richness of the Adriatic. Fort Verudela, named after the peninsula where it was built has been in a process of conversion into an aquarium since 2002. and is now home to some 200 animal species. Sharks, jellyfish and seahorses are the most sought after inhabitants, with the Marine turtle rescue center, our biggest contribution to marine conservation, as something not to be missed. The fort's roof, besides offering a magnificent view of Pula and the sea, from 2017. displays a massive steel dome placed over the old artillery block. The dome represents the final stage of our project where we reconstructed the central part of the fort and added 3 new tanks (50 000 liters each), greatly expanding our display.

The aquarium is privately owned by the biologist and scientist Milena Mičić, PhD, who founded the company in 2000. From a small family-owned business, Aquarium Pula has grown into a company which currently employs over 30 employees. It is recognised at the national level as an educational and scientific centre and is one of the top tourist attractions of the city of Pula.

Groundfloor

Northern Adriatic exhibit
Cold freshwater habitats, Red eared slider sanctuary,
summer terrace and a playground
“Evolution” exhibit with living fossils and reptiles

First floor

Marine turtle rescue centre
Mediterranean exhibit
Seahorses room
Jellyfish
Tropical marine exhibit
Tropical freshwater exhibit
Exhibits: “Nursery” and “Plankton”

Rescue Center

Aquarium Pula's wild animal rescue centre serves as a temporary or permanent habitat for individuals of strictly protected native animal species which have been found in nature exhausted, sick, wounded or poisoned. The purpose of the rescue centre is to treat and rehabilitate native species with the end goal of returning them to the wild. The rescue centre also provides help to specimens which require a temporary habitat, such as confiscated or taken strictly protected reptiles and/or wild species confiscated in illegal cross-border trade (foreign and invasive species).

Plan Your Visit

You can visit the aquarium every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (last entry at 8 p.m.). Entry fee is 20 euro per adult, 16 per children, students and senior citizens. Each visitor has access to a free audio guide available through the WhatsApp app.

All participant of Pula bridge festival and their families have 10% discount on the entry fee (show coupon from the previous page).



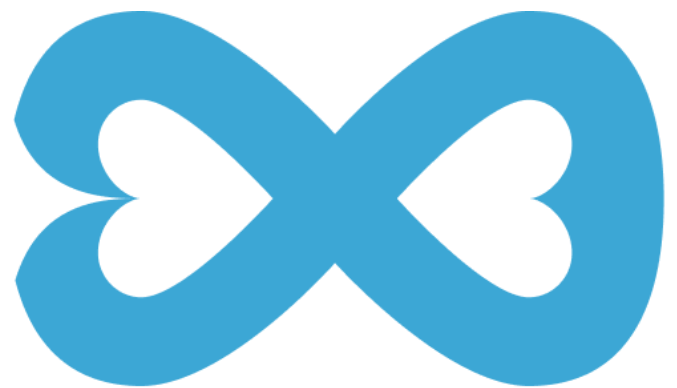
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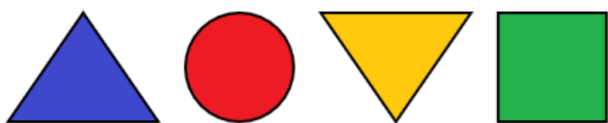


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TEAMS may 23 - 26 2024

Entry fees: 600 euro/team (4-6 players)



PAIRS may 25 - 26 2024

Entry fees: 50 euro/player

PRIZES

1 st PLACE - 7000 EURO + trophies
2 nd PLACE - 4000 EURO + trophies
3 rd PLACE - 2800 EURO + trophies
4 th PLACE - 1600 EURO + medals
5 th / 8 th PLACES - 600 EURO

PRIZES

1st PLACE Division A - 2000 EURO
50% of the pairs in League A, 20% of the pairs in League B, C, etc will be awarded prizes.

PROGRAM

May 25, 2024 - 5 sessions of 10 boards
May 26, 2024 - 1 session of 30 boards

PROGRAM

May 23, 2024 - 5 rounds of 10 boards
May 24, 2024 - 5 rounds of 10 boards
May 25, 2024 - QF 2 rounds of 10 boards
- SF 3 rounds of 10 boards
May 26, 2024 - Final, 3 rounds of 10 boards
- 3 rd place play off, 2 rounds of 10 boards

Prizes are guaranteed at a minimum of 30 teams

www.cupacontra.ro

Accommodation with breakfast / night

Euros	CARO Hotel ★★★★★
37	place in double room BUSINESS
45	place in double room PREMIUM
65	single room BUSINESS
85	single room PREMIUM

the prices are based according to the rates in force in Romania

www.hotelcaro.ro

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.

PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL DECLARATION (2019)

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

