

# Goodmorning Bridge

## Pula Bridge Festival Online Bulletin

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Dear Pula Players,

Here we are at the beginning of the 62<sup>nd</sup> International Pula bridge festival. We are one of the oldest festivals in the world, that has been held continuously, without skipping a single year, since it's foundation. We may be the only one that was held during the pandemic.

We have players who are regular, ever returning guests for over 50 years. We also have third and even fourth generation of bridge families coming, those whose grandparents started to visit the festival in the '60s, parents continued during the turn of the centuries and today they are coming with their own kids. I also know couples and spouses who are regular in Pula and whose romantic relationship started right here. Of course, every year we also have some new participants and they often become regulars. I love that Pula touched so many destinies and that together we created memories for a lifetime.

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.

I wish you all warm welcome to the magnificent city of Pula, our venue Park Plaza Histria, and the 62<sup>nd</sup> edition of the festival!

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 over 500 registered players from 36 countries and four continents. I don't think we have a new country (it is not so easy anymore—there are not that many countries :) on the planet. We expect to have about 150 pairs at main pairs and about 80 teams at main teams, which is certainly enough for highly competitive tournament and sufficient prizes. We did not increase the entry fees in the last few years since we believe that entry fee should not be an obstacle for anyone to join the tournament. There are many world class stars coming, but lets not mention any names, they are all displayed at [registration list](#).

Yesterday 40 pairs played Welcome tournament, and Polish pair Maciej Kita & Dariusz Sosin were celebrating first place. Congratulations!!! For IMP tournament that will be held today evening, starting 8 p.m. we already

have over 100 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 use Casino if needed.

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](mailto: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.

All tournaments will start on time. I gently remind you that you have to be at your table at that time, otherwise you may be replaced with a pair who registered later.

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 laud party without disturbing other guests.

Since last year *PuBridge Quiz* was a great success we will hold it again this year on Thursday 9.30. We will announce venue soon. Finally, after the Victory ceremony on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, 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, event managers, bulletin, BBO team, social networks and web editors, and technical support, and of course promoters and animators in various countries who work tirelessly throughout the year. I hope they realize how important they are.

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.

**It starts here & now!**

# RESULTS

## WELCOME PAIRS

1	Maciej Kita (POL) - Dariusz Sosin (POL)	71.05%
2	Michael Cappelletti (USA) - Michael Gamble (CAN)	61.34%
3	Florian Weiss-Selway (AUT) - Louise Weiss-Selway (AUT)	60.32%
4	Rob Jagroop (NED) - Eric van Valen (NED)	59.41%
5	Maja Żabierek (POL) - Hubert Urban (POL)	57.39%
6	Sophie Hermann (AUT) - Sofie Sjodal (NOR)	56.98%
7	Raj Kumar Srivastava (IND) - Arjun Srivastava (IND)	56.88%
8	Finn Kolesnik (USA) - Patricio Crisafulli Sádaba (AUT)	56.78%
9	Ana Zorana Brajovic (SRB) - Olga Simic (SRB)	56.58%
10	Elżbieta Waniurska (POL) - Piotr Waniurski (POL)	54.86%
11	Jarosław Grabek (POL) - Stanisław Wawszczyk (POL)	54.66%
12	Halina Święch (POL) - Mariusz Kita (POL)	54.55%
13	Anneke van der Meer (NED) - Caroline van Valen (NED)	54.15%
14	Marija Ninković (CRO) - Milan Žmak (CRO)	53.95%
15	Marek Pieczka (POL) - Krzysztof Kujawa (POL)	52.63%
16	Sjoert Brink (NED) - Katarzyna Dufurat (POL)	52.43%
16	László Földesy (HUN) - Máté Mráz (HUN)	52.43%
18	Jerzy Stworzewicz (POL) - Lukasz Stworzewicz (POL)	52.23%
19	Arie Teeuw (NED) - Otto van Schravendijk (NED)	51.01%
20	Mladen Kelava (CRO) - Nino Mrđen (CRO)	50.71%
21	Adriano Voscilla (CRO) - Željko Orlić (CRO)	48.68%
22	Marshall Lewis (CRO) - Mate Meštrić (CRO)	48.58%
22	Allison Cappelletti (USA) - Gigi Simpson (USA)	48.58%
24	Pavel Bobrov (GER) - Frank Dethlefsen (GER)	47.87%
25	MAREK JAWORSKI (POL) - Grzegorz Superson (POL)	46.56%
26	Pál Bárczy (HUN) - Marianna Bozsvai (HUN)	45.34%
27	Gabriel Dinescu (ROU) - Cristian Raducanu (NED)	45.24%
28	Igor Mandalinić (CRO) - Fulvio Milic (CRO)	44.53%
29	Vicki Moffatt (CAN) - Michael Moffatt (CAN)	44.33%
30	Adam Rudyk (POL) - Tadeusz Dańczak (POL)	44.13%
31	Marianne Linden (NED) - Rein Van Dijk (NED)	43.72%
32	Djordje Poljak (SRB) - DJuro Opačić (SRB)	43.42%
33	Milan Milošević (SRB) - Eduard Schnöll (AUT)	43.02%
33	Waltraud Stender (CRO) - Iva Erceg (CRO)	43.02%
33	Sławomir Czech (POL) - Piotr Suchodolski (POL)	43.02%
36	Odd Egil Skodje (NOR) - Wim van Luijk (NED)	42.41%
37	Mirosław Derwojed (POL) - Krzysztof Bonowicz (POL)	41.60%
38	Zdzisław Baryła (POL) - Jan Porada (POL)	40.38%
39	Serap Ellialtı (TUR) - Bayram yaşar Özçınar (TUR)	38.77%
40	Iryna Azarava (POL) - Taysiana Bulovitskaja (POL)	36.44%

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## IMP PAIRS

Saturday, 8 p.m.

We are officially starting today, with IMP tournament. We are expecting a bit over 100 pairs. We are starting at 8 p.m. Please keep in mind that you should register for every pairs tournament at least 6 hours earlier. Registration is possible only [online](https://pulabridge.com). If you are late, as you usually are, and you still would like to join, please send us email to [pulabridge@gmail.com](mailto:pulabridge@gmail.com). If there are drop-outs 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](mailto: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 (7.45 p.m. for this tournament) and find your table. Positions will be displayed online one hour before the start (7 p.m.), again, at [pulabridgefestival.com](https://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 midnight, a bit earlier. 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?".

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.

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 opponents are willing to cooperate, reliable source of imps are made doubled contracts, especially partscores. But there is a trick, unlike match-points, where you can not get less than 0, at IMPs tournament you can also lose imps on any board. Imagine, -13! That is kind of depressing. Unlike in prepandemic age, in 2022 modest 68 imps were enough to win the tournament, and in 2023 winners had only 52 imps! Since recession got even deeper in 2024, we expect that this year 50 imps may be enough.

Winners in 2024 were [Jüri Aava and Mikk Mirme](#) from Estonia, followed by Koen Poppe and Cisca Vorselman from the Netherlands, and Csaba Czimer and Hamori Zsuzsa from Hungary.



- 1 Jüri Aava (EST) - Mikk Mirme (EST) 52
- 2 Koen Poppe (NED) - Cisca Vorselman (NED) 50
- 3 Csaba Czimer (HUN) - Hamori Zsuzsa (HUN) 49
- 4 Maja Żabierek (POL) - Hubert Urban (POL) 47
- 5 Arie Teeuw (NED) - Jasminka Klanjscek (CRO) 46

# 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](mailto: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 (U26), entry is 50, if one adult, entry is 70, two adults 80, three adults 90, more adults 100 (let them pay :))

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

### Orientation timetable:

1<sup>st</sup> round: 12.00 – 13.05

2<sup>nd</sup> round: 13.15-14.20

3<sup>rd</sup> round: 14.30-15.35

### Short break

4<sup>th</sup> round: 16.15-17.20

5<sup>th</sup> round: 17.30-18.35

6<sup>th</sup> round: 18.45-19.50

“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 2023:

1	Riviera	Anke Van den Bergh (BEL) Nic Van Den Bergh (BEL) Steven de Donder (BEL) steve De Roos (BEL) Selen Pepic (SRB)	90.07
2	Psychobilly	Dubravko Điklić (CRO) Laila Gumhalter Malić (CRO) Sandra Havliček (CRO) Tomislav Šašek (CRO)	89.28
3	Miki	Ilze Mikelšone (LAT) Janis Cimins (LAT) Adrians Imsa (LAT) Liga Brikmane (LAT) Tihana Brkljačić (CRO) Ognjen Staničić (CRO)	81.41
4	Dalia	Ahmed Elselehdar (EGY) Olgu Seker (TUR) Abdelrahman Khedr (EGY) Daliah Abdulghaffar (EGY)	77.36
5	Pure Zagreb	Basar dogo Seker (CZE) Marina Pilipović (CRO) Renata Müller (CRO) Marshall Lewis (CRO)	77.11

Players from seven different countries were placed among 5 best [mixed teams in 2024](#). In top-5, four teams were international. It seems that mixed-countries teams achieve best results as among five best teams in 2023, 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 15 VPs per round was needed to win Mixed Teams, Of course you can do it. And very important, unlike in IMP pairs, here areimps converted to VPs, and you can't go minus in VPs.

In the [Non-Mixed Teams](#), you will need less VPs to win, as it is appropriate for a side event. Looking at results from 2024, Poland and USA are favourites.

1	Bastion Smaku	jarosław cieślak (POL) marek czerepak (POL) Tomasz Modrzejewski (POL) Mirosław Makatrewicz (POL)	84.37
2	Diane Gordy	Diane Gordy (USA) Ahmed Yousry (EGY) ALY ELSELEHDAR (EGY) Jerry Stamatov (USA) Ivan Nanev (BUL)	81.41
3	Stiga	Tadeusz Laszczak (POL) Krzysztof Buras (POL) Marek Witek (POL) Jonas Drobullis (USA)	79.81



# Remembering Pula 2023

Last year 61<sup>st</sup> edition of Pula bridge festival was held. Over 500 players registered for the festival and players from 28 countries participated, among which the most numerous were Poles, Dutch, Croats, Hungarians, Serbs and Slovenians.

Besides tournaments, during Pula festival you may join Karaoke party, Madhatter's Challenge (both Monday evening) and BridgePub Quiz on Thursday evening.

## Welcome – 49 pairs

- 1 Krzysztof Kujawa (POL) - Tomasz Pilch (POL) 63.04%
- 2 Steven de Donder (BEL) - Jens Jossaer (BEL) 60.20%
- 3 Dries Olgers (NED) - Rob Jagroop (NED) 60.05%

## IMP (Butler) – 120 pairs

- 1 Jüri Aava (EST) - Mikk Mirme (EST) 52.00
- 2 Koen Poppe (NED) - Cisca Vorselman (NED) 50.00
- 3 Csaba Czimer (HUN) - Hamori Zsuzsa (HUN) 49.00



Lara-tiara is awarded to the best lady in Lara mixed pairs



Madhatter's Challenge

## Mix Tim – 34 teams

- 1 Riviera Anke Van den Bergh (BEL) Nic Van Den Bergh (BEL) Steven de Donder (BEL) steve De Roos (BEL) Selena Pepic (SRB) 90.07
- 2 Psychobilly Dubravko Diklić (CRO) Laila Gumbhalter Malić (CRO) Sandra Havliček (CRO) Tomislav Šašek (CRO) 89.28
- 3 Miki Ilze Mikelsone (LAT) Janis Cimins (LAT) Adrians Imsa (LAT) Liga Brikmane (LAT) 81.41

## Non-Mixed Tim – 29 teams

- 1 Bastion Smaku Jarosław Cieślak (POL) Marek Czerepak (POL) Tomasz Modrzejewski (POL) Mirosław Makatrewicz (POL) 84.37
- 2 Diane Gordy Diane Gordy (USA) Ahmed You-sry (EGY) ALY ELSELEHDAR (EGY) Jerry Stamatov (USA) Ivan Nanev (BUL) 81.41
- 3 Stiga Tadeusz Laszczak (POL) Krzysztof Buras (POL) Marek Witek (POL) Jonas Drobullis (USA) 79.81

## BAM Tim – 48 teams

- 1 Senator Stanisław Pająk (POL) Piotr Kucharski (POL) mariusz kowalski (POL) Bogdan Szulejewski (POL) 58.00
- 2 Diane Gordy Diane Gordy (USA) Ahmed You-sry (EGY) ALY ELSELEHDAR (EGY) Ivan Nanev (BUL) Jerry Stamatov (USA) 54.00
- 3 Kembridge Miodrag Malović (SRB) Olga Simic (SRB) Mihailo Simić (SRB) ana zorana BRAJOVIC (SRB) 52.00

**Lara Mix Pair – 93 pairs**

- 1 Andrzej Kozikowski (POL) - Anna Kozikowska (POL) 65.46%
- 2 May Sakr (USA) - Jacek Pszczola (POL) 62.94%
- 3 Eva Bahníková (CZE) - Petr Bahník (CZE) 59.66%

**Non Mixed Par – 62 pairs**

- 1 Bogdan Szulejewski (POL) - Mariusz Kowalski (POL) 63.79%
- 2 John Våge (NOR) - John Helge Herland (NOR) 63.30%
- 3 Tim van den Bos (NED) - Berend Van Den Bos (NED) 61.29%

**Brk Open Par – 192 pairs**

- 1 Jerry Stamatov (USA) - Ivan Nanev (BUL) 64.68%
- 2 Mariusz Kowalski (POL) - Tomasz Pilch (POL) 62.29%
- 3 Steven de Donder (BEL) - steve De Roos (BEL) 62.00%

After main part of the tournament is over, on Saturday evening traditional Victory Ceremony was held where the best teams and pairs were awarded with trophies. Besides cups for the first three places, we also have some special awards in Pula. The lady who won Mixed Pairs that are played in Memory of Lara Ruso, gets chrystal tiara. The player of the festival is determined by the Festival comitte and gets special cup. It is not necessarily the player with the best resuts, but rather someone who played all the events, won at least one event, and somehow contributed to the festival. Last year the title was awarded to Ms Diani Gordy who won Open Teams, silver at Non-Mix teams and BAM teams, and brought her international team with players from all around the world to participate at Pula bridge festival.



Open Team winners.

**Open Teams – 82 teams**

- 1 Diane Gordy Ahmed Yousry (EGY) ALY ELSE-LEHDAR (EGY) Ivan Nanev (BUL) Jerry Stamatov (USA) 203.55
- 2 Tosca Tim Verbeek (NED) Steven de Donder (BEL) Jan Jansma (NED) Robert Lindeman (NED) 194.03
- 3 Budapest-Szeged Krisztián Grezsa (HUN) Zoltán Zsák (HUN) Daniel Gulyás (HUN) Peter Hodosi (HUN) 189.11



Player of the Festival: Ms. Diane Gordy **PAGE 6**



# Madhatter's MIDNIGHT



# KARAOKE



**WE ARE  
BACK!**



Venue:  
to be announced  
**TEAM UP FOR  
MADHATTER'S  
CHALLENGES!**

MoonDay, September 16, starting 9.30 p.m.

**DRESS CODE:** Show your respect by wearing a hat



# 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.

Bridge players and their family members are welcome.  
It would be smart to make international teams.

**Your general and specific knowledge on Bridge, Bridge society, Pula Bridge-Festival, Other Events, Cards, Play, and (semi)related concepts will be tested.**

Spectators are welcome.

Venue:  
to be announced

TEAM UP FOR  
PUBridge QUIZ!

Thursday, September 14, starting 9.30 p.m.



# All you need to know

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## Registrations

All players have to be [registered](#) for the festival. If you did not register so far, please do it immediately at [pulabridgefestival.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pulabridge@gmail.com)).

## Venue

The venue is the Congress Center of Park Plaza Histria (same as in previous years). If we reach over 120 pairs or 60 teams, we have additional playing space in Casino.

## 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 1998 or later) get a discount in all pairs tournaments. In team tournaments, if team consist of juniors only the fee is reduced 50% (50 instead 100 per day per team). If there is one adult in the team, fee is 70 euro, two adults 80, and three adults 90.

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](http://pulabridgefestival.com). Prizes should be collected the next day at the venue, right after the end of that day's event—please bring ID card. Cups will be awarded at the Victory Ceremony on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 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 fol-

low 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](mailto:pulabridge@gmail.com). Later (but NOT more than 12 hours) complaints will be considered only if it was the organizers' fault.

Although Pula Bridge Festival is very proud of its international TD team, we 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.

## Intervju: Anneke van der Meer & Rob Jagroop

*You are regular visitors of Pula bridge festival and you serve as coordinators for the Netherland's players—one of the most numerous nations in the festival. What brings you here year after year? What do you like about this festival?*

Pula Brigefestival is the strongest and biggest bridge festival of Europe, the place to be. But most of all we like to meet all the friends we made through the years in Pula. They became part of our life and will be forever. Nothing more in live is more important for us than sharing good times with friends.

*How did it happen that so many Dutch players visit the tournament?*

We were contact persons for the Netherlands since our first visit of the tournament, I guess in 2004. It was an easy job to help people find their way to and during Pula Bridgefestival. The most effective promotion we did was spreading our experiences of the festival. Each year more Dutch people joined the festival. But did you know that the Netherlands Bridgebond is the second biggest bridge federation of the world after the US? We have more bridge players than every other country in Europe.

*Which is your favourite Pula tournament, why?*  
We love the BAM. It is nice to gamble without regret. We don't know another festival that has a BAM. But most of all we love the BAM because of good memories in our first year in Pula. We formed a team with a Norwegian pair that played very well irrespective "some" beers and brandies. Unfortunately they played against two US ladies that couldn't appreciate the psyche bid of our teammates. We would have won 16-0 against that 'ladies' if our teammates would have watched their language. That was a mission impossible in their state. We lost that game but had a good time; we never forget that.

*Through the years you probably had a chance to explore Pula a bit, what would you recommend to a newcomer?*

♦For a newcomer our main advice is plan your trip if you like to see something! There are a lot of tournaments and it is not easy to resist them. If you never were in Pula before consider some of these options:

♦to walk along the amazing coastline of the peninsula Verudela; you can do it every day;

♦make a boat trip;

♦visit the city of Pula; just walk, do some shopping, and visit the castle or amphitheatre if you like historical sites;

♦visit Rovinj, a beautiful *picturesque village only 36 km from Pula*;

♦take some time to enjoy national park Kamenjak (Prementura) if you are a nature lover;

♦or take the boat to Brijuni island and play golf, visit the Brijuni national park and the Tito Museum.

*Do two of you often play together? What are the advantages and disadvantages of playing with a spouse?*

We play together once or twice a year. We are proud we had some good results together in the past. No further comments

*If you had a chance to play a tournament with anyone in the world, dead or alive, who would you choose?*

I (Rob) would like to play again with Jack Zhao. He lived for some time in the Netherlands and was a regular player that time at our club. He was an excellent player and I learned a lot of him. We didn't see him for a long time.



# LIFE OF A CRO-PRO

By Srđan Srfa Katušić

Regular readers of Štih (Croatian bridge bulletin) will remember that in last year's Pula, already in the mature phase of my bridge career, I managed to record my debut professional performance. Namely, I got a job in the renowned "Apartmani Stanković" franchise. The experienced pros embraced me gently, and the sponsor appropriately treated me to *maništra* with tomato sauce and a book by Boris Dežulović. However, the top result was still missing, perhaps because of the board where in both rooms we declared doubled contracts at high levels that ended in summary with eight undertricks and a substantial minus of -2200.

Such an outcome led to the dismissal of the fitness trainer of "Apartmani Stanković", and the franchise failed to form a team for this year's Pula, partly because the owner Andrea ran out of tomatoes for our meal. It was a big shock both for the organizer and for the professionals, who suddenly found themselves in a situation where they were looking for last-minute engagements on the spot. Lozovius and Lujo decided to retrain in other sports, so Lozo played as a goalkeeper and reserve club philosopher in the New England Patriots while Lujo decided to earn his living as a caretaker of his own child.

The owner of the franchise himself found a sweet home with Filip Jelić and signed for the "Intobridge.com" franchise. The terms of that Agreement remained hidden from the public eye, but in the corridors there was talk of a monthly supply of Bulgarian tomatoes and a bottle of French Beaujolais, which was just about to go sour. Andrea tried to change the name of the IntoBridge.com franchise to "Into Apartmani Stanković Bridge.com", but with little success.

I, on the other hand, ran into difficulties with my partner Zlatko in finding a new sponsor for the main Team in Pula. There were some interesting combinations with Dutch-Serbian juniors and Romanian cowboys, but we never managed to sign the contract. It seemed that we would be left stranded and have to earn money as servants in Apartments Horizont, so I wistfully remembered my grandmother who told me nicely that the bread of the bridge pro has seven crusts. However, towards the end of the transition period, Tihana, a world-renowned and recognized matchmaker and trader for bridge pros, saved the day and found us an arrangement. And what arrangement! We signed for the Egyptian team Dalia, owned by Mrs. Daliah Abdulghaffar. The terms of the contract were not quite at the level of

Cristiano Ronaldo, but a bridge pro without engagement works on the principle of whatever you offer he will take.

- ♠ A5
- ♥ AT6
- ♦ K6
- ♣ AKJ854

Of course, I have no problems revaluing these 19 points to 20-21 and open 2NT - I don't have a better alternative to show this type of hand. Zlatko bids 3 clubs puppet, I bid 3NT, and Zlatko thinks and bids 5NT! Not that we discussed this, but I reckon that here 5NT must be an invitation to the grand slam. I have fewer points than I should, but that's why I have two more clubs than Zlatko expects.

If that club suit runs, and it should, because with about 35 points between us, Zlatko is still a solid favorite to own the respective queen, It could be claim, or at least I have a good chance for 13 tricks with a good break, finesse or squeeze, or even throw in - my favorite tool in grand slams. I did this part of the bidding decision analysis quickly, then threw it in the trash with ease. Let me solve it ontologically! This is an opportunity and if I don't take it, probably nothing from the A group again. But if I take it, it means that, in my opinion, this opportunity is apparently a fake, so again nothing from the A League. So it doesn't seem to matter? Well, it's not, because I have a masochistic streak and I like to take matters into my own hands so that, if it doesn't turn out well, as it won't, at least I'll be the one to blame.

If you don't understand this logic, don't worry, neither do I, but there is something transcendent in it, you have to admit that. After this sharp reasoning, it is clear to all of you that bidding seven no trump is a clear-cut from the perspective of this bridge pro... A diamond is led, and Zlatko puts the dummy completely in line with his bid:

- ♠ KQJ
- ♥ QJ73
- ♦ AQJ7
- ♣ T2

- ♠ A5
- ♥ AT6
- ♦ K6
- ♣ AKJ854

..and of course, there are all kinds of goodies on this table, but no queen of clubs.



Now I'm looking to see if there are any chances to take all the tricks without club finesse, maybe it seems to you that the AK club can be cashed, so if the queen doesn't fall, try your luck in hearts, but believe the old pro, what is your best chance on this the board is a good old finesse in clubs. I push the ten of clubs. That works against nine singleton on West, and it also has good chances if East has Q9xx. If East doesn't cover, I make it, if he covers, it's not clear, but still I guess he is a favorite for Q9x(x), because it's tricky for him to decide whether to cover or not from Qxx, and it depends a lot on what he has in hearts. Most of all, after covering, it is possible that in the 6-card ending, it will be necessary to decide whether to finesse the nine of clubs or the king of hearts, but the bridge pro will probably be able to successfully read that ending, which must be doable. All in all, the chances are about 48% for some other pro...

...and for me and the cross that I wear, the chance is of course 0%. Because the queen of clubs behind me is Anastasia Mironova, the lady who received the award for the best played board in all of Pula. You will be surprised, but she didn't get that award for this board, and to be honest neither did I. The cross is a little more heavy because the inferior line with AK club, so if nothing happens heart finesse, which is somewhere a little over 40% (if the queen of clubs doesn't fall we need Kx or Kxx in hearts on East), of course works.

At the end of the board, I'm not sad at all, just routinely resigned, because going down in a grand slam on the first board of an important match you need to win, only relieves me of agony and tension, and the outcome is a foregone conclusion. By the end of the extremely swingy match, we go down in a hopeless 6 diamond contract, but there are also a couple of very good boards, so it seems that the score may be approaching zero, but that's where it's potential stops. There is no hope, because we are the pros in the team and we should pull it off if we want to get to A.

And what happens? After the match, Zlatko and I wait tentatively with our scoresheet, but Ahmed and Abdelrahman approach more cheerfully than usual. That's even worse, they will bring a good scoresheet, and ours is not something to be proud of... The comparison starts, 7 NT -1, push, yeah, obviously in the other room, pros of our caliber are playing also!

Second board, we stole a game, they went down in the other room. Then, we beat a game, ours made it there. A few more partial swings, and at the end +24, for us, exactly how much plus our team-mates brought, and with two slam disasters in 8 boards we managed to push to +1 butler. So, here we are in the A league, you don't have to believe it :) We

didn't really excel in the A League and we stayed at the bottom of it, but it doesn't matter, a real professional knows that it's nice even at the bottom of the A League and that there are nice shells and good fish there. And we still earned 220 points for the HBS ranking list, as a reminder for all of you to play the most beautiful and strongest team tournament that there is on home soil. I'm scared to think what a crazy professional engagement awaits me in the big team in Pula next year, please start sending your valued offers :)

P.S. Did you really believe the bridge professional that the line he unsuccessfully employed was the best line? A bit naive! Never take for granted opinion of a bridge pro who is looking for an alibi for when he failed where others succeeded. If you are also good at mathematics, here is a bit of stochastics that calculates the chance for the two described lines:

**Line 1:**

AK clubs, then heart finesse if the queen of clubs does not fall. The odds are:

Single queen club from either side –  $1/5$  of 4-1 = 0.06

Double queen on either side –  $2/5$  of 3-2 = 0.27

So, all together, the drop of queens in two rounds is 0.33

In the other 0.67 cases, the odds are:

3-3 hearts with King on East:  $1/2$  of 3-3 = 0.18

Kx of hearts on East  $1/3$  of 2-4 = 0.08

Singleton King of hearts on East = 0.02

So, total chance for this line =  $0.33 + 0.67 \cdot 0.28 = 52\% !!!$

**Line 2:**

Club finesse: pure 50% minus the single queen on East when we still need heart finesse and minus the theoretical chance that the pro misses the position if RHO covers the ten with the club queen, not that it is very easy to calculate, but let's say that everything is about 47%

**Conclusion:** Nevertheless, the marginally better line is to first try to drop club queen, right? Well, it's not!

Namely, playing for a singleton or doubleton King of hearts is double dummy. Due to bad communication after the club play, the percentage play in hearts is to play the queen of hearts, which will surely be covered from a short king. This drops the first line odds to  $0.33 + 0.67 \cdot 0.19 = 46\%$ , which is miles away from 47%.



# 62<sup>ND</sup> PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL



<b>FRI, SEPT 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>4 P.M.</b>	<b>WELCOME PAIRS:</b> single session: 24-26 boards
<b>SAT, SEPT 14<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8 P.M.</b>	<b>IMP PAIRS:</b> single session: 26-30 boards
<b>SUN, SEPT 15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12 P.M.</b>	<b>MIXED &amp; NON-MIXED TEAMS:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
	<b>4.30 P.M.</b>	<b>MIXED &amp; NON-MIXED TEAMS:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
<b>MON, SEPT 16<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12 P.M.</b>	<b>BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS:</b> 4 rounds of 6 boards
	<b>5 P.M.</b>	<b>BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS:</b> 3 rounds of 6 boards
	<b>9.30 P.M.</b>	<b>MADHATTER'S MIDNIGHT KARAOKE PARTY</b> <b>Restaurant Boschetto (Boškarin)</b>
<b>TUE, SEPT 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8 P.M.</b>	<b>LARA MIXED &amp; NON-MIXED PAIRS</b> single session: 26-30 boards
<b>WED, SEPT 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12 P.M.</b>	<b>OPEN TEAMS - QUALIFIER:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
	<b>4.30 P.M.</b>	<b>OPEN TEAMS - A &amp; B GROUPS:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
<b>THU, SEPT 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12 P.M.</b>	<b>OPEN TEAMS - A &amp; B GROUPS:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
	<b>4.30 P.M.</b>	<b>OPEN TEAMS - MORE GROUPS:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
	<b>9.30 P.M.</b>	<b>PUBridge Quiz (venue to be announced)</b>
<b>FRI, SEPT 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11 A.M.</b>	<b>OPEN TEAMS - FINALS GROUP A:</b> 3 rounds of 8 boards
<b>FRI, SEPT 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>4 P.M.</b>	<b>BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS</b> of 10 boards
<b>SAT, SEPT 21<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>1 P.M.</b>	<b>BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS</b> of 10 boards
<b>SAT, SEPT 21<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>9 P.M.</b>	<b>VICTORY CEREMONY &amp; AFTERPARTY</b>

NUMBER OF PLAYERS IS LIMITED

REGISTRATION ONLY ONLINE AT: [pulabridgefestival.com](http://pulabridgefestival.com)



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Offers fixed price of transfers:

Airport - Histria/Horizont: by car 40 euro, by mini van 55 euro

Histria/Horizont - Pula center: car 15 euro, by mini van 25 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 probably 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.

In a higher price range, but absolutely worth it. Also offers snacks at low-moderate prices.



### 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 meal for 20-25 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. Rather expensive.



### 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.

### Sophia, Grand Hotel Brioni

Named after Sophia Loren who was frequent visitor of Brioni islands as a guest of ex-Yu president Josip Broz Tito, this place is a real gem.

Sophia restaurant is a premium meat specialist. Dine on the highest quality matured cuts of beef, including favourites like classic American steaks, but also local like Istrian Boskarin.

The atmosphere of this restaurant quickly puts a spell on their guests. Subdued lighting and darker color scheme create a mood that invites them to lower their guard and simply let the restaurant's specialties sweep them away. Expensive, but worth it.





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# MECSEK KUPA

January 2-5, 2025, Pécs, Hungary

Following a long-standing tradition, this historic international tournament will once again be held at the beginning of 2025. The venue will be the recently renovated Laterum Hotel, conveniently located near the city center of Pécs. Participants will have access to the hotel's wellness facilities throughout the day, enjoy seated lunches and dinners, and benefit from free parking. In addition, we will be organizing city tours and other social events, allowing you to extend your New Year celebrations in bridge player style.



**Location:** Laterum Hotel  
**Address:** 7633 Pécs, Hajnóczy utca 37-39, Hungary  
**Website:** [www.laterum.hu](http://www.laterum.hu)  
**Director:** Ádám Magyar  
**Organizer:** Péter Fehér  
**Email:** [peter.fehér101@gmail.com](mailto:peter.fehér101@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** +36 20 946 3129 / +36 20 496 8057

## Times:

### Teams:

Round 1: Thursday, January 2nd, 2025, 19:00 to 24:00. Dinner: 18:00.

Round 2: Friday, January 3rd, 2025, 14:00 to 22:00. Lunch: 13:00. Dinner: 18:00.

### Mitchell Pairs:

Round 1: Saturday, January 4th, 2025, 15:00 to 19:30. Dinner: 19:30.

Round 2: Sunday, January 5th, 2025, 10:00 to 14:00. Lunch 14:30.

## Entry Fees and Prizes:

Tournament	Entry	First Prize
Teams	HUF 40.000/team	HUF 120.000/team
Mitchell Pairs	HUF 25.000/pair	HUF 100.000/pair

Additional prizes will be awarded depending on the number of participant.

## Accommodation and Meals:

Room Type	Price	Meals	Price
Single/night	HUF 19.000	Lunch	HUF 4.800/person
Double/night	HUF 25.000	Dinner	HUF 4.800/person

Juniors receive a 20% discount on the entry fee, and discounted rooms upon availability.

Please submit your entries by November 15, 2024, as we need to inform the venue of the final number of participants.

## Registration:

Hotel Reservation: <https://forms.gle/YZRNCsRdEiZm8EY56>

Teams Registration: <https://forms.gle/TWaYkgBstXssUPLi7>

Pairs Registration: <https://forms.gle/yQaxFmrur491B32n9>

or go to: [www.bridzs.hu/en/](http://www.bridzs.hu/en/)

Looking forward to playing against you!

Péter Fehér

Organizer

# Sorry, Partner

A Bridge Podcast

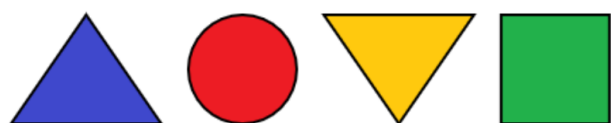


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## Reminders:

- 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 apologies  
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

