

Goodmorning Bridge

Pula Bridge Festival Online Bulletin

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Dear Pula Players,

Welcome to the 63rd edition of the International Pula bridge festival! I am so happy and grateful that you decided to join Pula festival. Pula bridge festival crew 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 all over the world. We expect to have over 150 pairs at main pairs and 60-70 teams at main teams, which is certainly enough for highly competitive tournament and decent prizes. Again, there are many world class players coming, but lets not mention any names, they are all displayed at the [registration list](#).

Yesterday 50 pairs played Welcome tournament, and Polish pair Jack Kranenburg (NED) & Krzysztof Świątkowski (POL) were celebrating first place. Today we play IMP pairs - if you didn't register yet, please do it now, as registrations may close at any moment.

As usual, we will play in the Congress Hall of the hotel Histria (OMG, I hope you all know where Histria is, but if you are a lost newcomer, just take a peek at the last page of this bulletin). Playing area is in the left wing (when you look towards the hotel). From Tuesday on, we will broaden this space if needed :) as we also have Casino.

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 Chal-

lenge 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.

For the third time we will also have *PuBridge Quiz*, which will take place on Thursday 9.30 in Kuglana. I believe you all know where Kuglana is, but if you don't - take a look at the last page of this bulletin again. This quiz is similar to other pub quizzes, but on the topic of bridge, Pula, cards, play, etc. There will be two parts of three sets of questions, 55 in total, hopefully fun, interesting and educative. Teams of 4-8 players can enter.

Finally, after the Victory ceremony on Saturday 20th, we will have a final 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, caddies, event managers, bulletin, BBO team, social networks and web editors, competition and ethical committees, 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. Please do not hesitate to approach us if you have any questions or if you need any kind of help. Remember that we are here for you and our mission is to make you feel good!

This is also opportunity to thank those who were especially engaged in preparations, Kristian and Jurica, Adam, Ogi, Superson, Anneke & Rob, 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. Jack Kranenburg (NED) - Krzysztof Świątkowski (POL) 72.23%
2. Fulvio Milić (CRO) - Igor Mandalinić (CRO) 65.38%
3. Linda Molle (NED) - Marco ter Laare (NED) 63.96%
4. Adrians Imsa (LAT) - Sibrand Van Oosten (NED) 60.89%
5. Marju Leppik (EST) - Mikk Mirme (EST) 60.36%
6. Marek Kamelski (POL) - Bartłomiej Kamelski (POL) 59.01%
7. Pavel Bobrov (GER) - Frank Dethlefsen (GER) 57.22%
8. Marion Ründal (EST) - Jüri Aava (EST) 56.44%
9. Mirek Derwojed (POL) - Krzysztof Bonowicz (POL) 55.47%
10. Lachezar Peychev (BUL) - Georgi Georgiev (BUL) 55.40%
11. Stefan Thorpe (AUT) - Julie Zhou (AUT) 55.26%
12. Tony Olech (ENG) - Prof John Philip Dakin (ENG) 55.09%
13. Ivan Mladenov (BUL) - Kiril Smirnov (BUL) 55.07%
14. Justyna Graniczny (POL) - Krzysztof Dzierżak (POL) 54.09%
15. Caroline van Valen (NED) - Eric van Valen (NED) 53.87%
16. Aleksandra Świątkowska (POL) - Ewa Sobolewska (POL) 53.57%
17. Ana Petrovic (SRB) - Ana Zorana Brajovic (SRB) 53.49%
18. Otto van Schravendijk (NED) - Arie Teeuw (NED) 53.13%
19. Milena Gryzłó (POL) - Alex Cimr (POL) 52.78%
20. Maxim Silin (USA) - Carrie Liu (USA) 52.77%
21. Michal Dembindki (POL) - Katarzyna Stachowiak (POL) 52.66%
22. Kate Terry (NZL) - Rebecca Osborne (NZL) 51.84%
23. Hugh McAlister (NZL) - Diana McAlister (NZL) 50.80%
24. Leszek Garbacik (POL) - Zdzisław Baryła (POL) 50.42%
25. Elżbieta Waniurska (POL) - Piotr Waniurski (POL) 50.15%
26. Manuel Jindra (AUT) - Eduard Schnöll (AUT) 49.50%
27. Karen McCallum (AUS) - Axel Johannsson (AUS) 49.29%
28. Tadeusz Denisiuk (POL) - Witold Grochulski (POL) 49.25%
29. Gregor Rus (SLO) - Hana Rus (SLO) 48.45%
30. Anastasia Mironova (SRB) - Sergei Mironov (SRB) 48.30%
31. Renata Muller (CRO) - Fiona French 48.29%
32. Grzegorz Superson (POL) - Giorgi Zedginidze (POL) 48.25%
33. Ema Kurtovic (AUT) - Felix Odelga (AUT) 48.21%
34. Rinse Kappetein (NED) - Piotr Nerka (NED) 48.04%
35. Slaviša Marković (SRB) - Zoran Burić (SRB) 47.32%
36. Marek Pieczka (POL) - Roman Grzelak (POL) 46.55%
37. Marshall Lewis (CRO) - Toms Straume (LAT) 46.44%
38. Andrea Stankovic (CRO) - Kristian Sentić (CRO) 45.25%
39. Mihailo Simic (SRB) - Olga Simic (SRB) 44.72%
40. Sanja Vištica (CRO) - Davor Ruso (CRO) 44.05%
41. Adam Olszewski (POL) - Rafał Bald (POL) 42.04%
42. Milica Radenković (SRB) - Ivica Kikić (SRB) 41.59%
43. László Földesy (HUN) - Máté Mráz (HUN) 41.36%
44. Katarzyna Żabicka-Bajon (POL) - Anna Lasocka (POL) 40.91%
45. Josip Čobanov (CRO) - Domagoj Virović (CRO) 39.21%
46. Filip Katušić (CRO) - Filip Pavletic (CRO) 39.17%
47. Voscilla Adriano - Željko Orlić 38.29%
48. Djorje Poljak (SRB) - Gorana Mitić (SRB) 37.83%
49. Jurica Špoljar (CRO) - Daroslav Habijan (CRO) 34.70%
50. Edin Muftić (BIH) - Dragana Muftić (BIH) 32.39%



UPCOMING EVENTS

IMP PAIRS

Saturday, 4 p.m.

We are officially starting today, with IMP tournament. We are expecting a bit 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](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. 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 IMP pairs entry is 25 euro/player (15 per junior). If you have a junior package that covers accommodation+entries, don't pay anything at the table just write your name at the envelope and we will sort it out.

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 (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.

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 ask "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 opponents 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. It seems that we are recovering from (post)pandemic crisis where in 2022 modest 68 imps were enough to win the tournament, and in 2023 winners had only 52 imps! Last year the winners collected 84 imps which is much better and we hope that this trend will continue and that there will be lot of exchange of imps tonight.

Winners in 2024 were Maggie Knottenbelt and Ben Handley Pritchard of England, followed by Sandra Havlíček and Laila Gumhalter, Croatian ladies pair, and Olga Simić and Selena Pepić, Serbian ladies. Bermuda Bowl champion reached respectable 4th place, just above Hungarian junior mix. Pula is much harder than you think :)



- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | M. Knottenbelt (ENG) – BHP (CRO) | 84.00 |
| 2. | S. Havlíček – L. Gumhalter (CRO) | 74.00 |
| 3. | O. Simić – S. Pepić (SRB) | 68.00 |
| 4. | A. Andreas (SWE) – F. Kolesnik (USA) | 62.00 |
| 5. | J. Jalsovszky – M. Vági (HUN) | 59.00 |

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

First tables will play with screens, and one (not necessarily the first table) match in Mixed will be broadcasted on BBO.

Orientation timetable:

1st round: 12.00 – 13.05

2nd round: 13.15-14.20

3rd round: 14.30-15.35

Short break

4th round: 16.15-17.20

5th round: 17.30-18.35

6th 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.

Mixed Teams Winners 2024:

1. Alejandro (Cole, Di Franco, van Oosten, Kazmucha) USA-ITA-NED-POL
2. Palatinus (Mezei, Honti, Hamori, Czimer) HUN
3. Ace Up Our Sleeve (Van den Hove, Meersman, Van Laethem, Vanparijs, Jossaer) BEL
4. The Abacus (Handley-Pritchard, Meštrić, Knottenbelt, Brkljačić) CRO/ENG)
5. Psychobilly (Havliček, Šašek, Gumhalter Malić, Diklić) CRO

Non-Mixed Teams Winners 2024:

1. Kraków (Jaworski, Strzemecki, Superson, Zedginidze)
2. Connector (Serek, Chmurski, Tuczyński, Walczak)
3. Fundacja B24 (Patreuha, Patreuha, Narkiewicz, Marcinowski)
4. CNC Jurczak Silesia (Cieślak, Czerepak, Pieczka, Kujawa)
5. Bastion Smaku (Bartoszewski, Kuś, Rogowski, Makatrewicz, Kavalenka (LTU), Kierznowski)

In 2024, players from eight countries managed to squeeze into the top five teams. The winning lineup? Four players from four different countries, carrying the name of a fifth! Moral of the story: if you still don't have a team for the Mixed, maybe it's time to look across the borders.

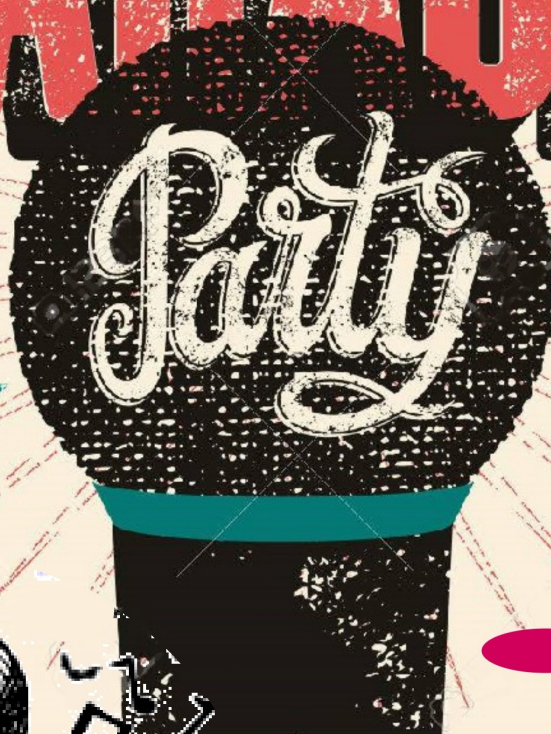
Remember, the partnership desk is open online, right under the tournament registrations. Check out who's looking for partners or teammates, sign up yourself and wait for offers, or just drop me an email – like you always do.

Now, about the non-mixed teams... unless you happen to be Polish, don't even bother. That playground is theirs. Last year, all five of the top five teams were Polish! In this field of robust testosterone, Polish men dominate with confidence. So if you're coming from a gentler corner of the world, better find a girl, join the Mixed, and leave arena to the gladiators. Even the team names are scary :)

Madhatter's MIDNIGHT



KARAOKE



Restaurant Boschetto (Boškarin)
500 meters from the venue

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

MoonDay, September 15, starting 9.30 p.m.

DRESS CODE: Show your respect by wearing a hat

Remembering Pula 2024

As tradition dictates, the 62nd International Bridge Festival was held in Pula in mid-September. The event brought together nearly 600 players from all over the world, with particularly strong contingents from Poland, the Netherlands, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovenia.

The festival followed its usual format. It began with a preliminary stage running from Friday to Tuesday, featuring one-day pairs and team tournaments. This was followed by the three-day Open Teams (Wednesday–Friday), and finally the flagship event of the week—the **BRK Open Pairs**, held over Friday and Saturday afternoon in six mini-sessions of ten boards each.

The tournament proved exceptionally strong thanks to the impressive number of international stars in attendance. Equally striking was the high number of junior participants. Members of the Funbridge Junior Team provided daily reports, available [online](#).

Of course, the Pula Festival is not only about bridge-side events such as karaoke, the Mad Hatter Challenge, and the PuBridge Quiz have become beloved traditions.

Below are the results, which best illustrate just how international and competitive last year's festival was.

Welcome Pairs – 40 pairs

The festival traditionally opens with a short Welcome Pairs on Friday afternoon. Victory went to the Polish pair ahead of a well-known American–Canadian duo and the Austrian national representatives.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. M. Kita – D. Sosin (POL) | 71.05% |
| 2. Cappelletti (USA) – Gamble (CAN) | 61.34% |
| 3. F. Weiss – L. Weiss (AUT) | 60.32% |
| 4. R. Jagroop – E. van Valen (NED) | 59.41% |
| 5. M. Żabierek – H. Urban (POL) | 57.39% |

IMP Pairs – 139 pairs

Saturday evening saw a turnout of 139 pairs for the Butler/IMP Pairs, 19 more than the previous year. The event was won by Croatia's Ben Handley-Pritchard partnering Maggie Knottenbelt, ahead of Croatian stars Sandra Havliček and Laila Gumhalter, with Serbian internationals taking third. Remarkably, five women featured across the top three places, Cro - standard :).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. M. Knottenbelt (ENG) – BHP (CRO) | 84.00 |
| 2. S. Havliček – L. Gumhalter (CRO) | 74.00 |
| 3. O. Simić – S. Pepić (SRB) | 68.00 |
| 4. A. Andreas (SWE) – F. Kolesnik (USA) | 62.00 |
| 5. J. Jalsovszky – M. Vági (HUN) | 59.00 |

Mixed & Non-mixed Teams – 40 + 26 teams

Sunday was reserved for the Mixed Teams, accom-

panied by an Open Teams event. The Mixed was won by a multinational lineup (USA–Italy–Netherlands–Poland) ahead of Hungary and Belgium. The Non-mixed Teams were completely dominated by the Poles.

Mixed Teams (40 teams):



1. Alejandro (Cole, Di Franco, van Oosten, Kazmucha, USA–ITA–NED–POL)
2. Palatinus (Mezei, Honti, Hamori, Czimer, HUN)
3. Ace Up Our Sleeve (Van den Hove, Meersman, Van Laethem, Vanparijs, Jossaer, BEL)
4. The Abacus Handley-Pritchard (Meštrić, Knottenbelt, Brkljačić, CRO/ENG)
5. Psychobilly (Havliček, Šašek, Gumhalter Malić, Diklić, CRO)

Non-Mixed Teams (26 teams):

1. Kraków (Jaworski, Strzemecki, Superson, Zedgizidze)
2. Connector (Serek, Chmurski, Tuczyński, Walczak)
3. Fundacja B24 (Patreuha, Patreuha, Narkiewicz, Marcinowski)
4. CNC Jurczak Silesia (Cieślak, Czerepak, Pieczka, Kujawa)
5. Bastion Smaku (Bartoszewski, Kuś, Rogowski, Makatrewicz, Kavalenka (LTU), Kierznowski)

Remembering Pula 2024

Board-a-Match Teams – 57 teams

The BAM Teams was captured by a professional multinational team (USA–Colombia–Italy–Netherlands–Poland), followed by the ever-strong Poles and a Dutch squad in third.



1. Alpert – Bernal – Versace – Brink – Dufrat (USA–COL–ITA–NED–POL)

2. Bastion Smaku (Bartoszewski, Kuś, Rogowski, Kierznowski, POL)

3. Lombard (van Valen, Jagroop, Skodje, van Luijk, Schoenmakers, Kaptein (NL–NOR)

4. Connector Serek, Chmurski, Tuczyński, Walczak (POL)

5. OtraVez (POR–SWE) Palma, Hult, Rimstedts (SWE–POR)

Lara Mixed Pairs – 109 pairs

Lara mixed pairs is not just another mixed tournament as we play it in a memory of our friend Lara Ruso, and the lady winner of the mixed pairs is awarded with Lara-tiara! Last year French juniors took the title:

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|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Rombaut – K.-Beaulieu (FRA) | 64.52% |
| 2. Lajos – Hodosi (HUN) | 62.18% |
| 3. Prahin – Prahin (USA) | 61.24% |
| 4. Cappelletti – Cappelletti (USA) | 61.20% |
| 5. Andonov – Malakova (BUL) | 60.85% |

Non-Mixed Pairs – 77 pairs

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. S. Vazić – M. Seizović (SRB) | 66.43% |
| 2. D. Zipovski – G. Radišić (SRB) | 64.19% |
| 3. Mladenović – Parežanin (SRB) | 63.34% |
| 4. F. van Gorp – R. Verhoef (NED) | 62.12% |
| 5. M. Rimstedt – S. Hult (SWE) | 61.68% |

Open Teams – 81 teams

The main event began Wednesday with the three-day Open Teams. The professional Swedish–Portuguese squad dominated the field, finishing well ahead of a high-profile Danish lineup and Bulgaria in third.

1. OtraVez (Palma (POR), S. Hult, O. Rimstedt, M. Rimstedt (SWE)) 221.44

2. Copenhagen (Auken, Welland (GER), Martensen-Larsen, Poulsen (DEN)) 194.48

3. Radkov (Fero, Lazarov, Andonov, Ivanov, Rusinov (BUL)) 186.37

4. Senator (Szulejewski, Kowalski, Pająk, Kucharski (POL)) 185.99

5. Tosca (Lindeman, Jansma (NED), Verbeek (NED), De Donder (BEL)) 175.48



BRK Open Pairs – 199 pairs

The closing BRK Open Pairs, contested over two days and six sessions, saw the Dutch claim the top two places, with bronze going to a Bulgarian mixed partnership.

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. J. Jansma – R. Lindeman (NED) | 61.33% |
| 2. S. de Wijs – T. van de Pavard (NED) | 60.84% |
| 3. D. Malakova – M. Andonov (BUL) | 60.70% |
| 4. A. Palma (POR) – M. Rimstedt (SWE) | 60.02% |
| 5. T. Marušić – M. Mrvica (CRO) | 59.86% |



Brk Cristal Trophy

The **Brk Open Pairs** is a six mini session tournament played in memory of the late Miljenko Brkljačić – *Brk*, long-time organizer of the Pula Bridge Festival. For more than 30 years, Brk led the festival, guiding it from a small local event to an established international competition, overcoming many challenges along the way.

He passed away in 2011, but among Pula players his presence is still strongly felt, with vivid memories and amusing stories about this picturesque and charismatic figure.

The Brk Open Pairs are held each year in his honor, and alongside the annual event there is also a five-year cycle in which the best overall player is awarded **Brk's Crystal Trophy**.

This year marks the third year of the third cycle: the first was won by Goran Radišić of Serbia and the second by Steven de Donder of Belgium. In the current cycle, after two years there are over 600 players on the list and the leader is Tim van de Pavverd – Selena's boyfriend!

Player	2023	2024 Total			
1. Tim Van de Pavverd (NED)	58.70%	60.84%	119.54%	34. Boguslaw Kruczek (POL)	55.92% 52.55% 108.47%
2. Steven De Donder (BEL)	62.00%	55.38%	117.38%	35. Robert Kwiatkowski (POL)	55.92% 52.55% 108.47%
3. Jan Jansma (NED)	55.12%	61.33%	116.45%	36. Faruk Masic (BIH)	54.18% 54.17% 108.35%
4. Michael Cappelletti (USA)	58.26%	57.77%	116.03%	37. Milovan Milovic (ITA)	54.18% 54.17% 108.35%
5. Zsolt Argay (HUN)	57.44%	58.56%	116.00%	38. Bogdan Szulejewski (POL)	56.00% 51.84% 107.84%
6. Gergely Dombi (HUN)	58.70%	57.02%	115.72%	39. Mariusz Ilnicki (POL)	49.37% 58.32% 107.69%
7. Péter Gál (HUN)	58.70%	57.02%	115.72%	40. Ana Zorana Brajovic (SRB)	48.63% 58.76% 107.39%
8. Rob Jagroop (NED)	57.34%	58.18%	115.52%	41. Olga Simic (SRB)	48.63% 58.76% 107.39%
9. Wim van Luijk (NED)	57.34%	58.18%	115.52%	42. Hubert Urban (POL)	52.60% 54.76% 107.36%
10. Mariusz Kowalski (POL)	62.29%	51.84%	114.13%	43. Maja Żabierek (POL)	52.60% 54.76% 107.36%
11. Dimitraki Zipovski (SRB)	55.38%	57.84%	113.22%	34. Marek Jaworski (POL)	53.73% 53.35% 107.08%
12. Gyorgy Kemeny (HUN)	58.52%	54.26%	112.78%	44. MAREK JAWORSKI (POL)	53.73% 53.35% 107.08%
13. Peter Trenka (HUN)	58.52%	54.26%	112.78%	45. Benjamin Zabradi (HUN)	50.85% 56.21% 107.06%
14. Jerzy Czeszewski (POL)	57.79%	54.84%	112.63%	46. Balázs Kotányi (HUN)	52.45% 54.56% 107.01%
15. Ryszard Kirkowski (POL)	57.79%	54.84%	112.63%	47. G. Szentandrás (HUN)	52.45% 54.56% 107.01%
16. Goran Borevković (CRO)	56.83%	55.17%	112.00%	48. Csaba Czimer (HUN)	56.65% 50.21% 106.86%
17. Karlo Brguljan (CRO)	56.83%	55.17%	112.00%	49. Krzysztof Buras (POL)	51.42% 55.41% 106.83%
18. Vuk Trnavac (SRB)	55.93%	55.58%	111.51%	50. Ines Meersman (BEL)	55.62% 50.83% 106.45%
19. Tomislav Šašek (CRO)	56.85%	54.50%	111.35%	51. Wouter V. den hove (BEL)	55.62% 50.83% 106.45%
20. Elżbieta Waniurska (POL)	53.20%	57.48%	110.68%	52. Robert Piechota (POL)	53.25% 53.09% 106.34%
21. Piotr Waniurski (POL)	53.20%	57.48%	110.68%	53. Marina Pilipović (CRO)	57.34% 48.69% 106.03%
22. Roman Kierznowski (POL)	53.73%	56.61%	110.34%	54. Viktor Leskovar (CRO)	56.85% 48.87% 105.72%
23. Martin Vodička (SVK)	58.41%	51.49%	109.90%	55. Bogdan Rašula (SLO)	51.28% 54.04% 105.32%
24. Peter Talyigas (HUN)	58.41%	51.49%	109.90%	56. Jože Sadar (SLO)	51.28% 54.04% 105.32%
25. Sibrand van Oosten (NED)	55.93%	53.83%	109.76%	57. Ewa Dziekanska (POL)	54.26% 51.03% 105.29%
26. Petar Ivanov (BUL)	58.08%	51.44%	109.52%	58. Krzysztof Dziekanski (POL)	54.26% 51.03% 105.29%
27. Hristo Myahov (BUL)	57.17%	52.30%	109.47%	59. Barbara Drnovšek (SLO)	50.58% 54.63% 105.21%
28. Krasimir Simeonov (BUL)	57.17%	52.30%	109.47%	60. Tomaž Adamič (SLO)	50.58% 54.63% 105.21%
29. Grzegorz Superson (POL)	53.58%	55.11%	108.69%	61. Jarosław Cieślak (POL)	55.69% 49.40% 105.09%
30. Kiril Marinovski (CRO)	54.93%	53.70%	108.63%	62. marek czerepak (POL)	55.69% 49.40% 105.09%
31. Vedran Zorić (CRO)	54.93%	53.70%	108.63%	63. Andrzej Hycnar (POL)	56.00% 48.95% 104.95%
32. Jerzy Stworzewicz (POL)	56.30%	52.25%	108.55%	64. Marshall Lewis (CRO)	54.79% 50.16% 104.95%
33. Lukasz Stworzewicz (POL)	56.30%	52.25%	108.55%	65. Levente Kaderjak (HUN)	53.50% 51.29% 104.79%
				66. Wojciech Strzemecki (POL)	51.38% 53.35% 104.73%
				67. Piotr Suchodolski (POL)	55.79% 48.28% 104.07%
				68. Drazen Martinovic (CRO)	54.60% 49.38% 103.98%

Madhatter MIDNIGHT TRIATHLON



Madhatter invites brave squads of 4-8 persons for combined challenges in:

- BEER FOR PEACE
- BALLOON MURDER
- NAUGHTY FLAMINGO



Restaurant Boschetto (Boškarin)
500 meters from the venue

MoonDay, September 15
Right after BAM
before Karaoke Party

Maximum 10 teams!
Entries are free!

There are no prizes but there's lot of pride and even more shame involved.

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 120 pairs or 60 teams, we have additional playing space in Casino.

Entries/Prizes

The entries are 25 euro/play/day for all events from Saturday to Tuesday. (e.g. BAM teams 100 euro per team, Mixed pairs 25 euro per player). For the main teams entry is 250 euro/team and for the BRK open pairs 60 euro/player. You are kindly requested to put the entries in the envelopes on the tables before the start of the tournament. Juniors (born 2000 or later) get a discount in all pairs tournaments. In team tournaments, if team consist of juniors only the fee is reduced 50%.

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). Once the entries are collected, prizes will be listed at 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 21st.

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 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, as well as unusual systems 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: Olgu Seker

Olgu Seker is one of the six fabulous Turkish women who won world champions in Buenos Aires last year. She is in Pula with us now, so I am sure you would love to know a bit more about her.

Tell us about Buenos Aires and your success there. How does it feel to be a world champion?

I had a truly unique experience in Buenos Aires, which became a turning point in my bridge career. Before the trip, I was quite stressed, as the journey itself was very long. I had played in the mixed teams category at the national team selection tournament for Argentina, but unfortunately, we did not qualify. I was very disappointed about that.

Later on, a vacancy arose for a pair in the women's team, and a new selection was organized. We won the tournament on the very last board and secured our place in the women's team. Looking back, I feel as though Argentina was calling me.



Days went by quickly, and in the end, we became World Champions. It was truly incredible. I burst into tears immediately. To the 14-year-old Olgu who had just started playing bridge, I wanted to say: "One day, you will become a world champion, and the feeling is absolutely indescribable."

What Turkish women do to prepare for such a tough competition? How does your day at championships look like?

Our Turkish Women's National Team has already been a consistent presence on the podium in international tournaments, with a wealth of experience among its members. My partner and I joined this team as its younger players. We are fortunate to have an excellent captain and a coach whom we greatly value, always standing by our side.

We spread our team practices throughout the year, meeting once a week. Each pair works on their system under the supervision of our captain. This is also how we prepared for the tournament in Argentina. For the month leading up to the event, we set a quota of playing at least 100 boards per day as pairs. In addition, we held a four-day training camp right before departure.

During the tournament itself, we live a very routine lifestyle. Our biggest request as a team is to stay in accommodation close to the playing venue, which allows us to rest properly. To be honest, living two weeks in the same clothes, in the same places every day, can be tough. We shut ourselves off completely—and in Argentina, even more so. The time difference was significant, and by the time we finished our matches, people in Turkey were already asleep.

As I said, it is a challenging process. However, being an bridge player and achieving success requires exactly that.

What do you expect from your partner, what is the single most important thing for success in bridge?

In bridge, having a partner is both extremely important and equally challenging. Only those within our community truly understand this. The dissolution of partnerships is quite common. However, without long-term practice and experience with your partner, it is impossible to achieve real success. Getting to know each other deeply is essential—not forcing situations at the table and understanding your partner's way of thinking are equally critical.

From my partners, I expect discipline and mutual respect above all. A strong desire to win at the table is also indispensable for me. Beyond that, I want to be able to enjoy spending time together in daily life as well. It is important for our worldviews to be similar, because being partners means truly spending a great deal of time together.

Interview: Olgu Seker

In my opinion, if you want to succeed in bridge, you need a partner with whom you can document your system in detail and work with in a disciplined manner.



Is there an important difference between open, mixed and women bridge? Please comment.

For me, the categories do not matter much. I truly enjoy competing in every one of them. I have played in all three categories both in Turkey and abroad, and each of them has been enjoyable. Recently, the mixed category has become a bit more popular.

What would you recommend to juniors, and especially to young girls to maximize chances and have a good time playing?

I started playing bridge when I was 14 years old. At first, it was simply a pleasant hobby for me. My brother and father also play. Throughout high school and university, I attended youth national team camps, which were always a lot of fun. When I first started university, I continued taking lessons. Later, I had the opportunity to play with some of the most experienced players in Turkey. Many people taught me by playing tournaments together with me.

Bridge is a difficult game—success does not come immediately. It requires experience. For young bridge players, my advice is to be patient as long as they enjoy it. If they work with discipline and gain experience, success will follow. At the same time, they should make sure to enjoy the game and have fun.

Work life can be monotonous, so I encourage them to travel and play tournaments all around the world while they can. During my university years, we did not have the financial means to travel abroad for tournaments. Now, in professional life, we have the money, but this time we lack the time or vacation days. That is why it is important for the community to increase its support. For instance, Pula's support is fantastic!

How come you decided to visit Pula? Is this your first time here?

My brother is a Pula addict. He had been telling me for years that I should join. In 2019, I met Tihana at the tournament in Istanbul. Then the pandemic entered our lives, and I could not make it to Pula for a while. Finally, two years ago, I managed to come, and it was an amazing experience. I hope to be here every year from now on.

What do you like about Pula festival?

I love playing bridge, swimming in the crystal-clear sea, being in nature, enjoying fine wine, delicious food, seafood, and spending time with friends. Pula offers all of these in abundance.

Your woman partner is not here. Who will you play with? What are your other plans for Pula?

My regular partner couldn't make it this time. We were recently in Denmark for the Venice Cup, and she couldn't arrange Pula. We have a fantastic women's team called Boops and Boots. We'll be playing BAM, and I'll play with Tihana. I'm sure we'll have a lot of fun.

Interview: Olgu Seker

In the mixed teams, I'll play with Mester and enjoy the simplicity of the minimum system. For the IMP pairs, I'll be playing with Filip, trying out his Croatian Club system for the first time. Hopefully, he won't be upset if I mess it up.



For the remaining tournaments, I'll probably play with my brother, Doğa Şeker. We haven't played a tournament together in a long time. Let's hope we don't end up arguing!

Are you more like queen of hearts or queen of spades? Why?

Of course i am queen of spades. I also have a tattoo on my left arm.

What is the most weird piece of clothes you brought to Pula?

Haha. Golden boots!!!

Will you be participating at PuBridge quiz? Who is your team?

I was not good at PuBridge quiz 2 years ago. But I've studied. So I am ready now. I don't have team for now. But I will be there.

Are you a professional? What does Olgu do when she is not playing bridge?

I am no longer a full professional. During my university years, I played professionally for seven years. Afterwards, I started practicing law, and I now run my own law firm. I still play in some of the Turkish championships with professional teams. To be honest, I would describe myself as a semi-professional—I play both with professional teams and with my friends.

Board 32. Dealer West. E-W Vulnerable.

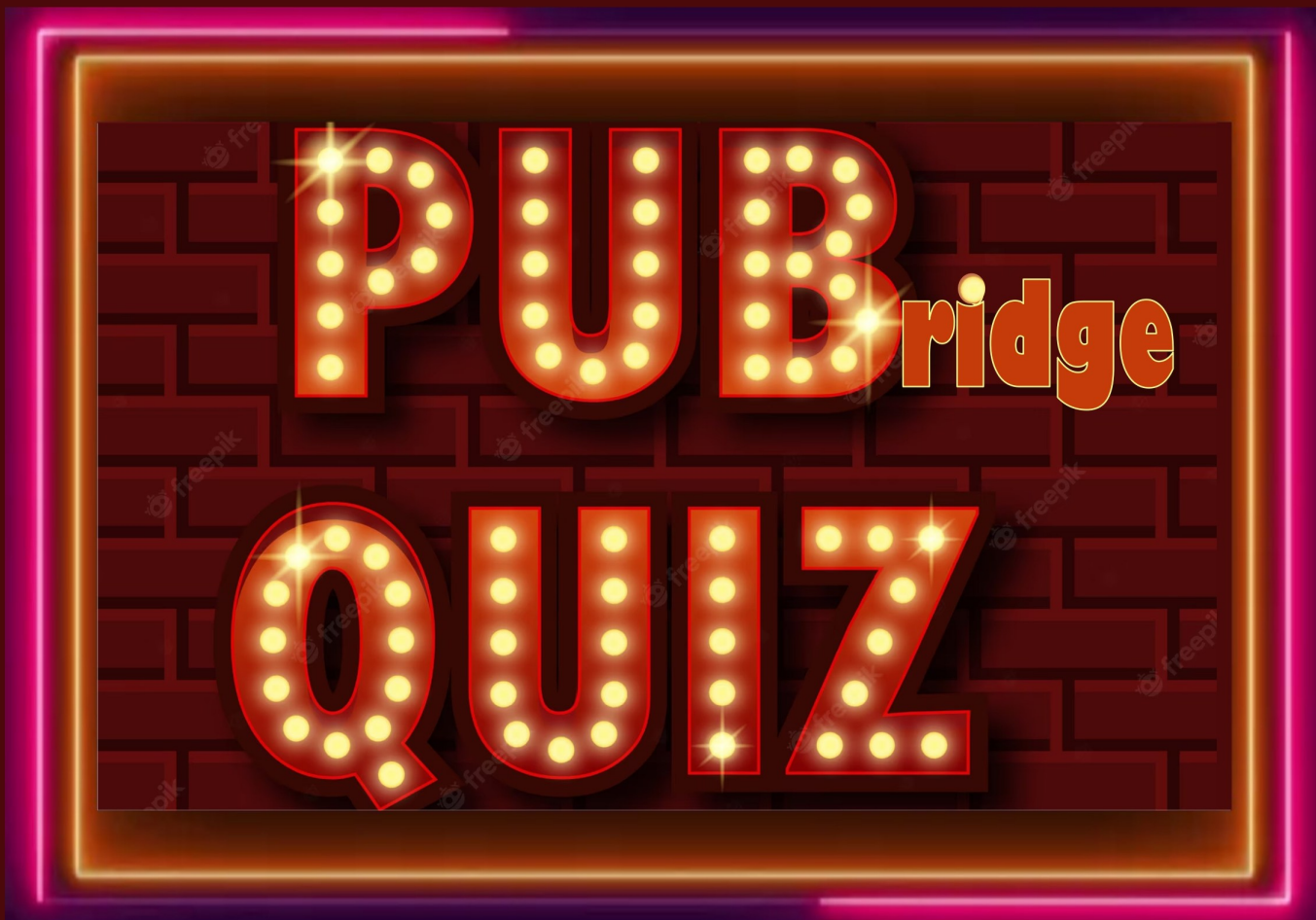
♠ A J 6		♠ K T 8 7 5 4 3
♥ 9 3		♥ K 6
♦ A K 7 5 3		♦ T 6
♣ Q 5 2		♣ 9
♠ Q 9		♠ -
♥ A Q T 8 5 4		♥ J 7
2		♦ Q 9 8 4 2
♦ J		♣ K J 8 7 4 3
♣ A T 6		

Please give us an interesting board from Buenos Aires.

This is the most important board for me because it is the last board and we won.

First close room played this board. At the close room Sweden E/W played 5 spades and went down. In these kinds of distributional boards, anything can happen. We were waiting for open room. In open table Sweden N/S played 6D and also went down. Afterwards, I started to cry. Really every board was very stressful. And congrats to Sweden also.

SWEDEN										TURKIYE									
Open Room										Closed Room									
CLEMENTSON Sanna										ACAR full									
OZBAY Irem										OVELIUS Emma									
BERTHEAU Kathrine										ERKANI Barak									
Board										Board									
17	2♠	S	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	Contr	Decl	Lead	Tricks	NS	EW	SWEDEN	TURKIYE					
18	3NT	N		8	110		1NT	S	♥9	10	180			2					
19	3NT	N		7		100	2♥	E	♥K	8		110							
20	5♠	W		12		100	1NT	N	♥6	8	120			6					
21	3NT	N		9	600		620	6♥	S	♥A	9	800	5						
22	3♠	S		7		100	3NT	N	♥J	11	660			2					
23	2♠	N		10	130		4♠	S	♥Q	7	500	9							
24	2♥	S		7		50	5♠	N	♥K	10	200	8							
25	3♠	N		6		150	2♥	E	♥T	8	110			1					
26	2NT	W		8		120	1NT	W	♥2	8	120								
27	5♠	S		11	400		5♠	S	♥7	12	420			1					
28	3NT	S		10	630		3NT	S	♥J	11	660			1					
29	4♠	E		7	300		3NT	W	♥4	11	660	14							
30	2NT	E		5	150		1NT	E	♥2	8	50			3					
31	2♥	S		5		800	3NT	E	♥Q	10	430			9					
32	6♠	N		9	150		5♠	E	♥7	10	100			6					



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. Maximum 16 teams.

Bridge players and their family members/friends 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.

Thursday, 18 Sept.
@ Kuglana
starting 9:30 p.m.

TEAM UP FOR
PUBridge QUIZ!

it will not be possible to book a table, so come earlier to ensure a good position!

Pula: Guide for Beginners

Nestled at the southern tip of the Istrian Peninsula, Pula is a city where history, culture, and Mediterranean charm intertwine. Known for its stunning Roman amphitheatre, vibrant food scene, and easy-going coastal lifestyle, Pula is one of Croatia's most compelling destinations.

Pula's story stretches over 3000 years. Founded by the ancient Histri, later absorbed into the Roman Empire, it boasts some of the best-preserved Roman ruins outside Italy. After the Romans, Pula passed through Byzantine, Venetian, Austro-Hungarian, and Yugoslav hands before becoming part of modern Croatia—each leaving unique imprints that shape the city's cultural fabric.

Pula is a city built on contrasts: ancient ruins, cozy taverns, seaside dining, and nightlife beneath lit-up shipyard cranes. Add in family-friendly attractions like the Aquarium and natural wonders like Rt Kamenjak, and you have a destination that blends history, nature, gastronomy, and fun. Whether you prefer Roman stones, wild coves, or truffle pasta with Malvazija wine, Pula promises an experience that lingers long after the Adriatic sunsets.

Must-See Sights

In the city (about 5 km from the venue)

The Amphitheatre (Arena) was built in the 1st century AD, this colossal structure once hosted gladiatorial contests and now serves as a stage for concerts and festivals.



Temple of Augustus is a graceful Roman temple anchoring Pula's Forum.

Arch of the Sergii is a 1st-century BC triumphal arch marking the entrance to the old town.

Kastel Fortress & Zerostrasse Tunnels offer stunning panoramas and a fascinating underground escape from WWI.

All around

Aquarium Pula (800 meters from the venue) Housed in the 130-year-old Austro-Hungarian Fort Verudela, Aquarium Pula is one of Europe's most unusual aquariums. Its stone chambers have been transformed into exhibition spaces showcasing Adriatic marine life, tropical fish, and endangered species like loggerhead turtles.



Rt Kamenjak (Cape Kamenjak) Just 20 minutes south of Pula lies Cape Kamenjak, a wild nature park at the very tip of Istria. With crystal-clear waters, rugged cliffs, and hidden coves, it's a haven for swimmers, cyclists, and snorkelers. Adventurers can try cliff-jumping, while explorers can hunt for dinosaur footprints embedded in the rocks. For a quirky stop, visit the famous Safari Bar, hidden among bamboo groves, where hammocks and treehouses await.

For visitors seeking an active thrill, **Adrenalin Park Medulin**, just 10 km southeast of Pula, offers paintball, quad rides, archery, and rope courses. It's a fun half-day escape for families with teenagers or groups of friends looking to mix the coastal holiday with a bit of action and adventure.

Fažana & Brijuni Islands Only 8 km from Pula, the fishing village of **Fažana** charms visitors with colorful houses and seaside taverns. From here, boats depart to the Brijuni Islands National Park, a remarkable blend of natural beauty and history. The archipelago features Roman villas, Byzantine churches, Tito's former summer residence, and even a safari park. Brijuni offers a perfect day trip that combines relaxation, culture, and a glimpse into Croatia's modern history.

Wine & Olive Oil Routes The countryside around Pula is dotted with vineyards and olive groves, many of which open their doors to visitors. The region is famous for its Malvazija white wines, robust reds like Teran, and world-class extra virgin olive oils.

TOWARDS PULA 2025

By Srđan Katušić

Hi there!

I'm Srfa, widely (wildly, ed.) unknown bridge pro. I'm also good in cheap skating and tennis if opponent don't hit too hard and often miss. Maybe I'm good also in something else I didn't try yet, but that's not percentage as I tried lot of stuff.

I won all of bridge tournaments except ones I didn't play or didn't win.

I'm here to explain you why we should jump of joy by being blessed to be here in Pula at beginning of 64th (it is 63rd, you are living in future, ed.) International Bridge Festival rather than anywhere else in the world in this particular moment:

In game of bridge we play here in Pula, best among best will be winning, not worst among worst, as it is case too often is in world we are living in a moment

Our game is getting cooler and younger. It happened to chess in last decades, finally it is happening to bridge too. Look at recently finished Bermuda

Bowl. Winning USA team consisted of set of young guys and one experienced Eddie. This can also happen to you in Pula if you are young and brilliant and play in team with me.

Connected to last point, youngest in winning Bermuda Bowl team was one very nice young guy that played on last year festival here. He scored 51% against me in Open Pairs, so after that his win on Bermuda arrived naturally. Morale of this story: this can happen to you on the next Bermuda Bowl!

You can and should jump into our nice Mediterranean Sea before each session you play. That way you are getting advantage of roughly 4% to players who were not wise enough to do so, capitalize on that!

You have a chance to say goodbye to this summer in the place where summer really lasts as long or bit longer than in calendar.

Enjoy and play as well as you can this week and everything will turn out well for you :)

IMP pairs 2024: Bid your games

By Tihana Brkljačić, originally written for IMP

As the festival didn't even start yet we do not have any „fresh“ boards to present, but we do have some interesting from the last edition of Pula bridge festival.

The IMP pairs tournament was held on Saturday evening. 139 pairs entered the competition and the winners were Maggie Knottenbelt of USA and Ben Handley Pritchard, Croatianized English, who plays for English national team but lives with his Croatian wife and cat in Zagreb. Here is one board that helped them win the tournament. Maggie upgraded her 17 HCP so she opened 1♦ instead of 1NT.

S/- ♠ K J 10
 ♡ 9 2
 ♦ A Q 10 9 3
 ♣ A K 6

♠ 7 3 ♠ Q 9 8
 ♡ Q 10 8 6 4 ♡ A K J
 ♦ 6 4 ♦ K 8 7 5 2
 ♣ J 8 5 3 ♣ 9 7

♠ A 6 5 4 2
 ♡ 7 5 3
 ♦ J
 ♣ Q 10 4 2

West	North	East	South
Knottenbelt		Handley-Pritchard	
-	-	-	p ass
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	2NT	pass	3♦
pass	3♠	pass	4♠
all pass			

There was a heart lead and 9 of club switch. Now Ben HP read the clubs not to come in and played spade to jack losing to the queen. East now excitedly cashed the ace of hearts and played a club.

This was a sure sign he had the diamond king so Ben banked on that – he drew trumps and took the ruffing diamond finesse with the third club as an entry. The board was worth 5 imps.

IMP pairs start today at 4 p.m. I hope you will enjoy play and once the tournament is over we can all meet at Kuglana and have some drinks together.

Mixed Teams 2024: Final Match

By Tihana Brkljačić, originally written for IMP

Sunday is always reserved for the Mixed teams. The field was tough and before the last round two leading teams (Alejandro and The Abacus) were very close. Since I was a member of one of those teams I am kind of involved in the story. Especially since, as a tournament organizer, I allow myself only one tournament per festival so this was my only chance J. The match was broadcasted on BBO with over a thousand kibitzers. I usually don't fear famous opponents, but knowing that Sibrand and Danuta will hold our cards at the other table was a bit unsettling. Missing a pretty cold slam on board 1 did not contribute to my opportunism.

N/ EW ♠ A K 6 2
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 7 2
 ♣ K 4 3 2

♠ 9 8 4 ♠ Q
 ♥ A K Q 8 7 5 4 ♥ J 10 6
 ♦ J ♦ A K 4 3
 ♣ 10 5 ♣ A Q 9 8 6

♠ J 10 7 5 3
 ♥ 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 5
 ♣ J 7

West	North	East	South
Brkljačić		Meštrić	
-	pass	1♣	pass
1♥	pass	2♦	pass
4♥	all pass		
West	North	East	South
Kazmucha		Van Oosten	
-	pass	1NT	pass
4♦	pass	4♥	all pass

I should have bid 3♥ instead of four to create a GF showing strong wish to play in hearts. However, smelling a misfit I cowardly settled for a game and partner couldn't know how good my hand was. At the other table Sibrand opened a practical 1NT stripping their pair from a chance of reaching a slam.

So, in reality the match was close up to the last board where both me and my partner got a bit too enthusiastic.

So, here is the beauty:

♠ 10 9 4
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ J 5 3
 ♣ A K J 8 4

So you pass first seat vulnerable as West, and North opens 1♦. Your partner bids 2♦ – majors and South passes. You don't have a super support but you like your tens, nines and eights (somehow you didn't like them on the first board). It is the last board of the tournament and probably there are hundreds of kibitzers. You have seven missed calls on your phone as you were playing instead organizing, you irresponsible woman! So, what do you bid?

W/EW ♠ 5
 ♥ K 6 3
 ♦ A K Q 10 9 8 7
 ♣ Q 9

♠ 10 9 4 ♠ A J 7 6 2
 ♥ 10 8 ♥ A J 9 7 4
 ♦ J 5 3 ♦ J
 ♣ A K J 8 4 ♣ 10 7

♠ K Q 8 3
 ♥ J 5 2
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ 6 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Brkljačić	Di Franco	Meštrić	Cole
Pass	1♦	2♦	pass
3♠	4♦	4♠	X
all pass			
West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	Knottenb.	V. Oosten	BHP
Pass	1♦	2♦	pass
2♠	3♦	all pass	

Danuta bid a bland 2♠, but I found the exciting 3♠ that worked for about 10 seconds as it pushed Massimiliano to an unmakeable 4♦. However, my partner naively thought I actually had something in his suits and bid a hopeless game. Margie was on the spot with double, and that was more than enough for her international team Alejandro to win the event, two days before Alejandro actually arrived to Pula.

Bermuda Bowl 2025

By Mate Meštrić

At the end of August of this year the 47th Bermuda Bowl was held in Herning, Denmark. In what was a close final team USA1 triumphed over Denmark, while Sweden had the better of Belgium in the bronze medal match. While it is far from uncommon for bridge articles to focus on boards where a huge amount of IMPs was swung, the typical examples being slam deals or deals featuring large penalties, this will not be the topic of this text. Rather, it will feature somewhat more unassuming deals, ones that in my opinion are often unjustly overlooked, and yet whose influence can (and often does) decide the outcome of the match. I am talking about close part score competitive decisions, which can when things are going your way accumulate a hefty amount of IMPs, but that can also blow up in your face when partner chooses not to cooperate by tabling a less than useful dummy.

In second chair at favorable vulnerability, you open 1♥ holding: ♠KQ ♥KJ10873 ♦J102 ♣J10 and the auction proceeds:

(pass)-1♥-(1♠)-pass
(pass)-?

Do you feel like taking another bid, and if so, which one? In my experience the most common way people think about these thin reopening spots is that either they are outgunned and ought to be passing, or they need to protect a possible penalty pass from partner. And then they take their best shot in guessing which is more likely. I've always felt that this approach leaves out a third possibility, that partner doesn't have a penalty pass, that opponents aren't about to bid game having passed a spade, but rather that everybody at the table is kind of maximal for their previous action, and that: "hey, maybe we can make something!" Unlikely you say? Be that as it may, it is not exactly likely that BB finalists choose to play 1♠ with a vul game their way nor is it likely that partner has a penalty pass when we are looking at two spade honors.

W/EW ♠ J 10 9 2
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ Q 9 4
 ♣ K 7 6 4

♠ A 8 7 6 3
♥ A 6 5
♦ A 7 6
♣ A Q

♠ 5 4
♥ Q 9
♦ K 8 5 3
♣ 9 8 5 3 2

♠ K Q
♥ K J 10 8 7 3
♦ J 10 2
♣ J 10

Bathurst playing for USA1 chose to balance with 2♥, while Schaltz choose to pass. Both 2♥ and 1♠ made, for a 5 IMP swing the way of USA1.

Partner starts the bidding with a Weak two bid in hearts, and at unfavorable vulnerability you hold:

♠ Q x
♥ K T x x
♦ Q x x
♣ Q J T x

and hear the following auction:
2♥-(2♠)-?

We've all been here a million times. On one side, 3♥ is unlikely to fetch, but more to the point a fair amount of spades could easily come home. In theory by bidding 3♥ we are reducing opponents' precision in their decision to choose between 3♠ and 4♠ as we've gobbled up some bidding space, but in practice it isn't uncommon for opponents to bid more than they normally would when we gobble up the space, and the question is if we want them to. Just as I preferred a 2♥ reopening in the previous deal, I'm a 3♥ bidder here as well. It takes away the cuebid, and I'm not a big believer in opponents who would miss all their games unless we push them to bid on, we'll beat those guys anyway.

W/NS ♠ 10 8
 ♥ A J 9 8 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 7
 ♣ K 8

♠ J 6 5 3
♥ 7 4
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A 6 5 3

♠ A K 9 7 4
♥ Q
♦ A K J 4
♣ 9 7 2

♠ Q 2
♥ K 10 6 5
♦ Q 5 3
♣ Q J 10 4

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	Hurd	Konow	Bathurst
pass	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	pass	4♠	all pass

West	North	East	South
Grossack	Bilde	Wold	Schaltz
pass	2♥	2♠	all pass

Again, Bathurst chose the high road with Schaltz staying low, earning USA1 another 5 IMPs.

While passing ♠ A106542 ♥ 82 ♦ J2 ♣ J64 in second seat unfavorable may or may not be your cup of tea, it was the action chosen by all four players playing for either the gold or the bronze medal. However, when the auction came back to them, not all chose the same.

(pass)-pass-(1NT)-pass
(pass)-?

You are still at unfavorable vulnerability, but it could easily be the case that both partials would make. Pick your poison.

Yet again the USA1 team was the only team to bid, this time around it was Hurd that balanced with 2[♣] (one major) while Plejdrup-Meister passed.

N/NS ♠ A 10 6 5 4 2
 ♥ 8 2
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ J 6 4

♠ Q 9 8 ♠ J 7
♥ 7 5 4 ♥ K Q 3
♦ 7 6 5 ♦ A K Q 9 3
♣ A 10 7 5 ♣ 9 3 2

 ♠ K 3
 ♥ A J 10 9 6
 ♦ 10 8 4
 ♣ K Q 8

There was nothing to the play, both contracts made in comfort.

First in at love all you pass ♠J986 ♥T ♦AJ872 ♣K82, and before long you have another balancing decision.

pass-(1NT)-pass-(pass)
?

I think the majority choice would be to balance with this hand providing one had a way to show this hand type. Both teams balanced, the Danish one with a double presumably showing 4M 5+m, while USA1 bid 2♦ as diamonds and a major.

W/- ♠ A 7 5 3
 ♥ A K 5
 ♦ K 5 3
 ♣ Q 6 5

♠ J 9 8 6 ♠ K Q 10
♥ 10 ♥ Q J 6 4 2
♦ A J 8 7 2 ♦ Q 9
♣ K 8 2 ♣ 10 4 3

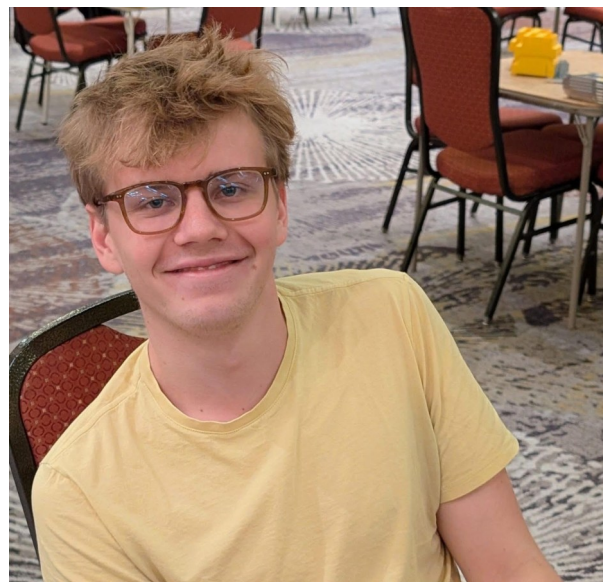
 ♠ 4 2
 ♥ 9 8 7 3
 ♦ 10 6 4
 ♣ A J 9 7

West	North	East	South
Plejdrup	Hurd	Lahrman	Bathurst
pass	1NT	pass	pass
X	all pass		

West	North	East	South
Kolesnik	Bilde	Kaplan	Schaltz
Pass	1NT	pass	pass
2♦	pass	2♥	pass
2♠	pass	pass	X
pass	2NT	all pass	

When the dust settled the winning choice (yet again) was to declare, and not to defend. 1NTx made with ease, and while one can only guess what would have happened in 2♠, the reality of the situation is that NS got pushed to 2NT. For what it is worth, I'm guessing declarer would have come out on top in 2♠.

The tally of all these small swings comes to 22 IMPs the way of USA1, while their entire winning margin was 17 IMPs. The reader is invited to seek the massive penalties that the USA1 team must have incurred as a result of their aggression, but should such a search prove futile, will a somewhat more aggressive stance become commonplace in future? If you ask me, yes. These small swings tend to add up, and bidding isn't as fraught with danger as our less than perfect memories might suggest. Very few of us will lose sleep over a deal where opponents made 1NT and we might have made 2♦, and a fair amount of us will sleep less than comfortably when opponents write down +800 their way on a partial deal. And yet the cumulative effect of these comfortable sleeps may end up being the bigger sleep hindrance when the score card suggests that we'd have won the whole thing but for a few IMPs...



Mixed Teams 2024: Final Match

By Marshall C. Lewis

First let me congratulate you all on your shrewd decision to participate in the 63rd annual edition of Pula International Bridge Festival. In the pages of this world-renowned journalistic organ, our dedicated team of crack correspondents (NO – that does NOT mean what you’re thinking) will regularly regale you with highlights (or perhaps occasionally otherwise) of selected deals from the Festival which we regard as hot copy in one way or another. Typically this will be due to their technical attractions, but also eligible for coverage are situations with piquant psychological interest, as well as engaging moments of whimsy or even side-splitting hilarity -- you know, in the unlikely event something amusing happens at some table...



OK well, but the Festival has not even started yet so what do I propose to write about in this opening installment of my 2025 series – apart from that sudden threat to inflict multiple articles on our public? About the PAST, of course – this publication is not the Delphi Daily Oracle, is it? Not about the

Pula past, either, because previous editions of Goodmorning Bridge already harbor the archived literary glories of bygone years, and are likewise available on our Festival website. Instead, you are about to become more acquainted with Bridge-In-Croatia-When-All-You-Tourists-Are-NOT-Around ... you lot with your nebulous diamond openers, and your lost dogs, and your Forcing Clubs, and your sorry-I-can't-eat-garlic, and your Ha-Ha-MIGHT-Be-Forcing-Clubs, and your Tuesday clothes that you also wore Monday but you woke up under a tree five minutes before gametime so it is what it is, and all the rest of it. WELCOME TO PULA !!!

(For the benefit of readers who may not have realized it, the immediately preceding mini-rant channels one of the great Monty Python scripts/performances in their long distinguished history. Here is the link, and you are advised to skip the first half or so, down to where Mr. Bounder finally cuts through the truly idiotic opening material and gets things back on track with his prospective travel-agency client seeking a packaged tour – start at the 36th line of dialogue, where Bounder says: “Anyway, about the holiday....”

You can [treat yourself now or afterwards](#).

SO you are about to get a rarely-extended, privileged inside glimpse of some of the memorable curated dioramas from Croatia’s bridge equivalent of Premiere League. Known here as “A-Liga”, this marathon national team championship is held over four weekends starting late November and ending sometime in the spring. Twelve teams play a complete round-robin of 16-board matches, after which the field is split in two – the bottom six have one more internal RR to play to decide who gets relegated (to the B-Liga) and who remains, while the top six contest a double RR for the medals. That ciphers out to a potential total of 336 boards over the season (i.e. for any players from the top six teams who play all the boards).

With that many deals to play, plenty of interesting things are bound to happen -- even some good ones.

Now, given the enormity of the database to draw from, it is aesthetically desirable that my series have some sort of theme. After all, each of the first 176 boards is played at 12 tables -- you do the

arithmetic, as my GMB contract does not include such duties. The same is true of 80 boards on the third weekend, plus 80 more played at 6 tables during the A-final. Therefore the total number of outcomes is borderline astronomical (if often agricultural). So my strategy for narrowing focus here is to showcase some chefs d'oeuvre of my very own partner for A-Liga (and Pula), CRO international Renata Muller. ECCE MULIER !!

N/NS
 ♠ A 7 5
 ♥ A J 3 2
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ K 9 6 5

♠ 10 8 6 3
 ♥ K 7 5
 ♦ A J 8 6
 ♣ 7 4

♠ K 9 2
 ♥ 10 9 6
 ♦ 10 9
 ♣ A 10 8 5 2

♠ Q J 4
 ♥ Q 8 4
 ♦ K 7 5 3 2
 ♣ Q J

West	North	East	South
-	Lewis		Mueller
	1♣	pass	2NT*
pass	3NT	all pass	

* after re-counting five times

West led a 4th-best ♠2, won by East who returned the Nine. Renata won in dummy and led a low club, ducked. Now a diamond to the Queen in dummy (West of course playing low), and another club towards her hand – for all that E knew declarer could have three clubs, so again the Ace was withheld. Next came the heart finesse, followed by a diamond from dummy – and now the defense was at a crossroads. In particular, West had to decide whether to leave partner on lead or instead overtake with ♦J. As the second round of diamonds was led, East playing the Ten, S has only seven tricks (five of them already in), and EW are about to score a second. Hard times hover however for EW in this 7-card middle-game position as West ponders:

N/NS
 ♠ 7
 ♥ A 3 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ K 9

♠ 10 8
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ A (J 8) ?
 ♣

♠ 2
 ♥ 10 9
 ♦ (10)
 ♣ A 10 8

♠ Q
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ K 7 5 3
 ♣ -

Suppose East is allowed to hold this trick, yielding a 6-card matrix with one less diamond everywhere:

- If he plays his spade, South wins in hand and leads ♥Q to the king and ace, then exits to East in hearts.
- If instead he plays ♥10, declarer can cover and win in dummy, then cross to the spade queen and exit to East in hearts for the same ending, dummy likewise scoring ♣K and the thirteenth heart.
- More interesting is if East plays clubs -- but however he does that the defense is doomed, though via alternate variations. A low club lets dummy win and lose a heart to W, who can only cash his ♦A. Should E cash ♣A and play another, West must reduce to four cards, two of which must be hearts so he will very soon be endplayed. Finally, if instead E cashes ♣A then leads ♥T, declarer just ducks.

After lengthy study West seemed to work this out -- but he also realized there could be no straightforward benefit in overtaking the diamond, because there was nothing technically advantageous that he could do from his side of the table either. If he led a spade, South could lead ♥Q (covered) and throw East in with a third round of the suit as described above. Nevertheless West did overtake, judging that the best hope was to offer a "Greek gift" -- after collecting his ♦J, he tried the effect of ♥K.

Having come this far, though, and having been afforded ample time for cogitation during the interminable huddle by W, Renata was able to thwart Baldrick's mildly 'cunning plan'. Just as if that heart shift had come from RHO in a variant previously described, she played BOTH the Ace and Queen on this trick -- then she crossed to ♠Q so as to extract that exit card from East, who was then put in with ♥10 and forced to yield the ninth trick to ♣K.

That sort of performance goes a long way toward job security, but she was only warming up -- just a few boards later in the same match she brought in another double-digit IMP swing by rather similar means.

Alas though -- the dreaded Deadline Siren for this first edition of GMB is blaring away, so to see Renata's next exploit please stay tuned for the next riveting chapter of

"A-LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN: ECCE MULIER"

63RD PULA BRIDGE FESTIVAL



FRI, SEPT 12TH	4 P.M.	WELCOME PAIRS: single session: 24-26 boards
SAT, SEPT 13TH	4 P.M.	IMP PAIRS: single session: 26-30 boards
SUN, SEPT 14TH	12 P.M.	MIXED & NON-MIXED TEAMS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	4.15 P.M.	MIXED & NON-MIXED TEAMS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
MON, SEPT 15TH	12 P.M.	BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS: 4 rounds of 6 boards
	4.45 P.M.	BOARD-A-MATCH TEAMS: 3 rounds of 6 boards
	9.30 P.M.	MADHATTER'S KARAOKE PARTY (Boškarin)
TUE, SEPT 16TH	4 P.M.	LARA MIXED & NON-MIXED PAIRS (26-30 boards)
WED, SEPT 17TH	12 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - QUALIFIER: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	4.15 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - A & B GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
THU, SEPT 18TH	12 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - A & B GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	4.15 P.M.	OPEN TEAMS - MORE GROUPS: 3 rounds of 8 boards
	9.30 P.M.	PUBridge Quiz (Kuglana)
FRI, SEPT 19TH	11 A.M.	OPEN TEAMS - FINALS GROUP A: 3 rounds of 8 boards
FRI, SEPT 19TH	4 P.M.	BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS of 10 boards
SAT, SEPT 20TH	1 P.M.	BRK OPEN PAIRS - 3 SESSIONS of 10 boards
SAT, SEPT 20TH	9 P.M.	VICTORY CEREMONY & AFTERPARTY
SUN, SEPT 21ST	4 P.M.	ADDITIONAL OPEN PAIRS
MON, SEPT, 22ND	1 P.M.	TEAMS: CROATIA AGAINST THE WORLD

REGISTRATION ONLY ONLINE AT: pulabridgefestival.com

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 specialties. 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.



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 (e.g. flambe prawn or tuna salad, various pastas, soups or risottos for less than 20 euro) or just a cocktail and enjoy. For a bigger groups (especially in the evenings), booking is recommended.

For fish and meat it is in a higher price range, but absolutely worth it.



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 century-old restaurant in the modern resort of Ribarska Koliba (the name translates as Fisherman's Hut) stands near the Marina Veruda, which can be admired through its large picture windows or from its attractive summer 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 (the bouillabaisse is superb), although a few meat specialties also feature. Vintage car enthusiasts can also admire the Triumph Spitfire convertible that is "parked" inside the restaurant.



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.

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



Sorry, Partner

A Bridge Podcast

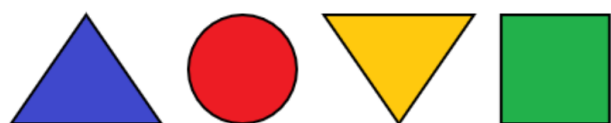


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Reminders:

- Please register on time;
- learn your [Pula '25 number!](#)
- 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 to yourself and send to us: vzepic@gmail.com.

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

