



14th EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Opatija, Croatia • July 11 - 18, 2018

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DOBRO DOŠLI U OPATIJU

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SCHEDULE TODAY

Session 1

10:00 - 12:20

LUNCH

12:30 - 14:00

Session 2

14:00 - 16:20

BREAK

16:20 - 16:40

Session 3

16:40 - 19:00

Once again, the city of Opatija is receiving junior bridge players from all over Europe for the European Junior Pairs Championships. Opatija has developed into a popular venue for major bridge events in recent years. After a quiet start in 2009 with the inaugural European Universities Championships, Opatija hosted the 10th European Junior Pairs Championships in 2010, the 12th European Champions' Cup in 2013 just after Croatia had joined the EU and the 52nd European team Championships half a year later in 2014. In November 2016, Croatia hosted the Small Federations' Games and another European Champions' Cup, the 15th, but these events took place in warm Dubrovnik and cold Zagreb respectively. Now, we are happy to be back in Opatija for the 14th edition of the European Junior Pairs Championships. And you can already mark the second half of June 2019 in your agendas for the 9th European Open Championships if you want to return to Opatija soon!

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS FROM OPATIJA!

The 2010 European Junior Pairs Champions were Konstantinos Doxiadis and Vassilis Vroustis from Greece. Board 28 of the second session of the final was one of the big boards that helped them to come out on top.

Board 28. West Deals. N-S Vul.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>♠ A Q 9 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 7 4 3 2</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> NE</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> WS</div> </div> | <p>♠ J 8 3 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ 6 2 ♣ K J 9 8 5</p> | <p>♠ 5 ♥ Q 6 5 3 ♦ J 9 8 7 ♣ A Q 10 6</p> |
| <p>West <i>Doxiadis</i> 1♠ 4♠</p> | <p>North <i>Jochymski</i> Pass Dble</p> | <p>East <i>Vroustis</i> 3♣ All Pass</p> | <p>South <i>Kazmierczak</i> Dble</p> |

The 3♣ response showed 6-9 points with four-card spade support and Poland's Wojciech Kazmierczak took the opportunity to make a lead-directing double. When Doxiadis now jumped to the spade game, Tomasz Jochymski doubled for penalty, ending the auction. Jochymski led the four of clubs to the jack, queen and ruff. Doxiadis led the king of diamonds to the ace and back came the two of clubs for the eight, ten and ruff. Declarer played ace, king and a third heart for a ruff in dummy, then finessed the ten of diamonds, cashed the ♦Q throwing a club from dummy, and ruffed his last diamond low as North pitched a club. The king of clubs was covered by the ace and ruffed with the ♠10 and the last heart led. North was powerless and could not prevent declarer taking one more trump trick for a great +590 to the new champions.

By the way, Doxiadis was a member of the Greek Open Team in the recent Europeans in Ostend.



Konstantinos Doxiadis



A STORY FROM WROCLAW 2008

Jos Jacobs

The 2008 Junior champions were Thomas Bessis and Frédéric Volcker. Their most recent successes are the European Open title in Budapest 2016, followed by the runners-up position in the 2017 Bermuda Bowl in Lyon, on their home soil.

So here is a board that in my opinion was one of the best-played boards up there in Wrocław, ten years ago, rather than a board by the 2008 winners. Since then, we have seen more than enough very fine boards by this pair...

To unblock or not to unblock, that was the question on this board, but the position was very delicate:

Board 16. West Deals. E-W Vul.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| ♠ A 9 7 6 5 4 ♥ — ♦ 9 5 2 ♣ J 10 7 6 | ♠ J 8 2 ♥ Q 5 ♦ Q 10 7 3 ♣ K 9 4 3 | <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> | | N | | W | | E | | S | | ♠ K Q 10 3 ♥ A K 5 2 ♦ A J ♣ A 8 2 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| Lorencs | Gula | Berthers | Stefanów |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♥ | Dble |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 6♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

East led the ♥Q and now, Artur Gula had to show his skill. If you throw two diamonds on the top hearts and manage to eliminate the red suits, drawing trumps in order to get the necessary entries to dummy, you can then finish off your good work by playing ♣A and another. Whoever defender holds Hx originally, will be endplayed; there is no (unblocking) defence. However, when trumps proved 3-0 declarer had to adjust his plan. He had started off by throwing his two diamonds on the ♥AK, cashing the ♦A and ruff the last diamond. A trump now went to dummy's queen and the 3-0 break came to light. This saw Plan B come into operation: heart ruff with the ace, two more spades and a low club away from the ace. If West hops up with the queen, the ♣K will be finessable. When West ducked, East won the king and returned the suit. After considerable thought, and with the TD's calling the change, Gula went up with the ace to drop the queen and land his slam. This was good for +980, all the matchpoints and an obvious nomination for the best played hand of the tournament. Very well done indeed!

The defenders in the E/W chairs, who on this deal were very much on the receiving end, went on to participate again in the Opatija 2010 Championships, finishing there as runners-up behind the Greeks mentioned above. By the way, Matins Lorencs also played for Latvia in Ostend.



CHAMPIONS IN 2012, VEJLE (DENMARK)

Jos Jacobs

Alexandre Kilani and Aymeric Lebatteux, the eventual winners, like so many French players from the past, did not make a particularly good start to today's Juniors' Final. We had to wait till halfway the second session of the morning before they really started to get going. It seems that French players in general do not like to play early in the morning. In their seaside resorts, a day's play in the annual bridge tournament would not start before 4 p.m and rightly so, they would insist. By board 14, however, they were fully awake.

We saw a good inferential auction and correct declarer play, albeit against less than perfect defence.

Board: 14. East Deals. Vul. None

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ♠ Q 7 5 2 ♥ 10 5 ♦ K Q 9 8 5 ♣ J 5 | <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; width: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> N W E S </div> | ♠ K ♥ A J 9 ♦ 7 4 3 2 ♣ K Q 10 7 2 | ♠ A 9 8 3 ♥ Q 8 4 3 ♦ 6 ♣ A 9 4 3 |
|---|--|---|--|

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Gullberg</i> | <i>Lebatteux</i> | <i>Karlsson</i> | <i>Kilani</i> |
| 1♦ | Dble | 1♣ | Pass |
| INT | 2♠ | All Pass | 1♠ |

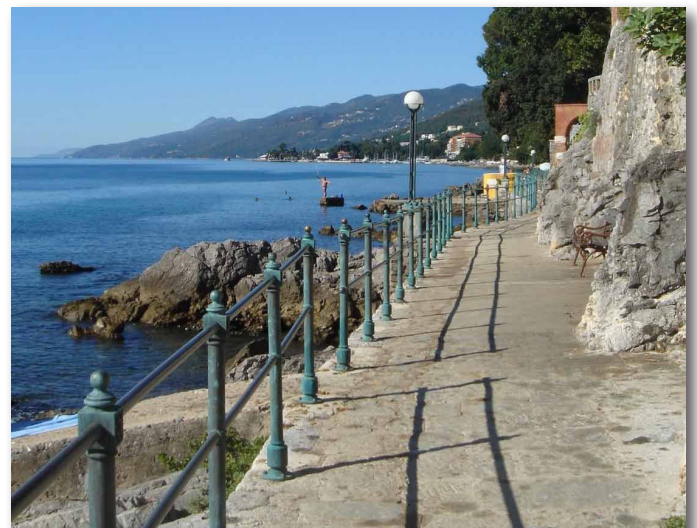
1♦ was a transfer and North's double thus showed diamonds. From East's 1♥ response, South knew that North could not have more than two hearts, so he ventured a bold 1♠. West tried INT, hoping to win the partscore battle, but North raised to 2♠ with his four-card support and there it rested. West led a club to jack, queen and ace and declarer next tried his singleton diamond. West rose with the ace, which does not look the best defence either, and played another club. East took his ♣10 and continued ♥A, ♥J which was covered by queen and king. West exited with a low heart which was ruffed in dummy, East contributing the nine (perforce) and thus establishing declarer's ♥8. The rest was easy: two top diamonds shedding

two clubs, trump to the ace and a low trump through West. Just made for +110 and 14 out of the 18 available matchpoints on their way to the gold medal.

At another table, EW showed how to deal with a hand like this:

| West | North | East | South |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Suzer</i> | <i>Delle Cave</i> | <i>Ercan</i> | <i>Gandoglia</i> |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| Pass | 2♠ | Dble | All Pass |

Suzer immediately doubled 2♠ and led a low trump. He surely knows his theory: most of the time a trump lead is best against doubled partscores. Dummy played low and East's ♠K forced declarer's ace. A low diamond came next, dummy's king winning. This was another good move by West, who of course could see that rising with the ace would at once establish dummy's suit. Declarer then played the ♣J to the king and ace and a low club back from hand. When Suzer could win the trick with his eight, he immediately continued the ♠J which was won by dummy's queen. Declarer then ruffed a diamond in hand and tried to ruff a club in dummy but Suzer jumped in with his master trump to lead yet another trump, removing declarer's last trump. Declarer was stranded in his hand now, so he had to play a rounded suit. When declarer exited in clubs, the only other trick he could get was dummy's last trump, as West still held the ♦A. Down one, +100 and 11 mp to EW. No surprise therefore that Suzer played for Turkey, his country, last month in Ostend.



CHANGES TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

Section 1.2.1

The Mixed Pairs will be a two phase competition. 48 boards will be played in the qualifying stage on Wednesday 11th.

On Thursday 12/7/18 the top ranked 24 pairs from the qualification stage will play a one day all-play-all Final A and the remaining pairs will play in Final B.

Carry-overs:

Final A: The leading qualifiers will receive a carry-over of the equivalent of two tops, 44 MPs, going down linearly to zero for the last qualifier.

Final B: There will be no carryover.

Sections 1.2.2 and 1.2.4

Details of the formats, qualifications and carryovers in the various pairs events will be announced in tomorrow's bulletin.

Section 5

The sanction for an appeal that in the opinion of the reviewer has insufficient basis is Euro 30 and/or 50% of the matchpoints available on the board.



COMING SOON

