









14th EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Opatija, Croatia • July 11 - 18, 2018

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FIRST GOLD TO NORWAY IN MIX

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2018

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Gold Medals: Sofie Grasholt Sjodal, Christian Bakke - Norway

SCHEDULE TODAY

Session I

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

Our dear friend
Francesca Canali
is now Mom:
Welcome to the
beautiful
ANNA MARGOT!

Our dear Editor Jos Jacobs is in

The first event is already over, but bigger things are about to begin today. With 5 series in 4 different age groups, this event is getting larger by the minute! 187 pairs have pre-registered for the series starting today (except for the UI3s, who only play on Sunday), which is a huge success. But first, let's celebrate the medalists of the Mixed Pairs. The gold medals go to Sofie Grasholt Sjodal and Christian Bakke from Norway, who took over the first place after the first final session, and never looked back. The silver medalists are Lucie Kohutova and Erik Klems from the Czech Republic, and the bronze goes to Johanne Bilde Kofoed and Emil Buus Thomsen of Denmark. Congratulations!



Silver Medals: Erik Klems, Lucie Kohutova Czech Republic



Bronze Medals: Johanne Bilde Kofoed, Emil Thomsen Buus - Denmark





the hospital and we hope to

having him back SOON!









OPENING SPEE

Opatija, 12th July 2018

Mr Emil Priski, Deputy Mayor of Opatija, Mr Fernando Kiirigin, City Sport Department, Mr Goran Pavlovi, Opatija Tourist Board Manager, Mr Jurica Carić, President of the Croatian Bridge Federation,



Dear Friends.

It is both an honour and a pleasure to welcome you all, players, officers, journalists, staff and guests to participate in the 14th European Youth Bridge Pairs Championships in Opatija.

The degree of participation is greater than could be expected, so much so that we had to put tables also in the lobby area. Also geographically it is great success with players coming from 27 countries.

You have competed for two days in the Mixed Series and I congratulate the medallists. Now you are facing three gruelling days of play in the U26 Open, U26 Women, U21, U16 and U13 Series.

The last day all players who fail to qualify for the final will be able to take part in the President's Cup competition with no age, gender or nationality restriction.

After the championships 75 players have registered to take part in the camp organised by the EBL. This is a great opportunity for combining bridge playing with all kinds of other activities, both educational and just pure fun.

I want to thank the Croatian authorities and in particular the Minister of Tourism, Gari Cappelli, the Mayor of Opatija, Ivo Dujmić, Mr Goran Pavlović, Tourist Board Manager for their strong support.

My congratulations go to the Croatian Bridge Federation, its President Jurica Carić, the local organising team and volunteers for their dedication and superb efforts.

Hosting this event would not have been possible without the support of the Croatian sponsors and I express my thanks and appreciation to all of them.

These are your championships. The focus should be on you and your competitive achievements. Even in the heat of the battle you are showing us the true values of sportsmanship and fair play that we cherish so much. I am sure you are enjoying this opportunity to measure your skills with those of your competitors, while at the same time making many new friends. Well, enough talking from me let the games begin!

I hereby declare the 14th European Youth Bridge Pairs Championships officially open.

Jan Kamras **EBL** President



BITS and PIECES

Branko Špiljak

Prologue

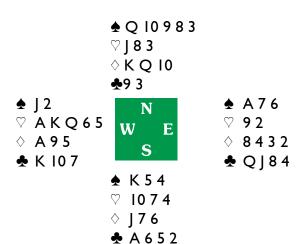
It's not coming home! Croatia goes to finals; England will have to wait a while longer. That's World Cup, now back to Finals we are all interested in. Mixed Pairs are going into Finals. For the first session I decided to sit at the table and watch pairs as they come.

Matchpoint defense

Defense is hard. Sometimes it is even harder at matchpoints

Finals, Session I, board 18

Dealer East NS Vul



North	East	South	West
Player I	Player2	Player3	Player4
-	Pass	Pass	10
I♠	INT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

lead: **★**4

Partners duly leads your suit, producing encouraging four. You cover the jack and continue with ten which holds the trick (both declarer and partner contributing low cards). How do you continue?

So far you have a pretty good view of the hand. Declarer has the ace of spades left and your partner has the king. Looking at your heart holding it's easy to see that hearts run for declarer. Therefore declarer has one spade, five hearts, one diamond and whatever she can scramble out of clubs.

So what are your options? In IMPs it's an easy choice — you simply fire the of king of diamonds! Your spades are dead anyway and the only hope is that you can take partner's club ace and two diamonds. If declarer has the club ace the contract was never beatable anyway. Alas, it's not IMPs.

Declarer could have something like ♠Axx ♡xx ◇Jxxx ♣Qxxx and you would grant an otherwise doomed contract. The problem is that declarer is much more likely to had something like ♠Axx ♡xx ◇Jxxx ♣QJxx to justify her free bid. At the table North continued with a "safe" spade and was rewarded with an 18% score for 10 tricks made. Partner could hold them to 9 tricks by ducking clubs twice but it was really hard to duck when declarer continued with club queen.





Bidding in turn

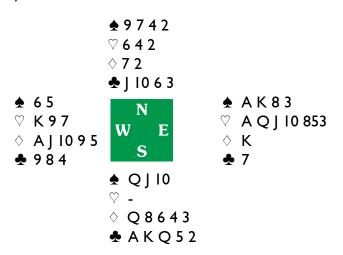
Board 20 brought a bidding disaster. You open 1% holding $\triangle AQ \heartsuit K 10754 \diamondsuit AQJ87 \triangle 6$ and partner supports with 2 \heartsuit . What is your call?

Our heroine selected a $3\Diamond$ game try and it was Passed. I'm no expert in Polish club but I consider this as a natural sequence. Partner should probably press to game with \clubsuit 864 \heartsuit Q98 \diamondsuit 42 \clubsuit AQ843 having some useful cards – definitely not minimum!

As the cards lie, 12 tricks are cold. Nobody had bid the slam but everyone else was in a game, so a well deserved zero (4.55%).

In love

Love is great! It can move mountains and create wanders. Unfortunately it is rarely good idea to fall in love with your hand.



You hold ♠QJ10 ♡- ♦Q8643 ♣AKQ52 and bidding (with no one vulnerable) goes:

North	East	South	West
			Pass
Pass	ΙŸ	2NT	Dble
3♣	4♡	?	

Deeply in love with his hand our hero persisted with 5♣ and it went

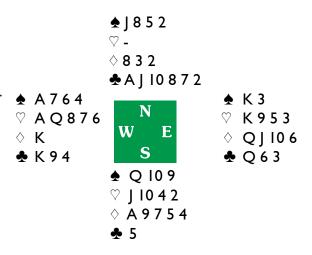
North	East	South	West
			Pass
Pass	ΙΫ́	2NT	Dble
3♣	4♡	5♣	Dble
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Slam in hearts was, of course, cold but they would never bid it without your blind push. In case you wander, 5♣ doubled goes 3 down (more then 480). Lesson learned: love your partner, not your hand! p.s. this was board 24.

Falling in love with your hand is bad enough. Being optimist at the same time is much more dangerous.

Look at this amazing bidding on board 32

Dealer West EW Vul



North	East	South	West
			IΫ́
3♣	3♡	Pass	Pass(!)
3♠(!!)	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North (optimist in love) held ♠J852 ♡- ♦832 ♣AJ10872. West (utter pessimist) holding ♠A764 ♥AQ876 ♦K ♣K94 decided that a part score is just enough. Blind love drove our hero to fight for the partscore. This is a sad love story. Every other table was in the cold vulnerable 47 and our lover went down 4 (not vulnerable) for a hard zero!





MIXED PAIRS FINAL, SESSION I

Daniel Gulyas

Anna Zareba and Arkadiusz Majcher won the 3-session qualifier on Wednesday with a gigantic 64% average, so it was natural to follow them on the first segment of the finals.

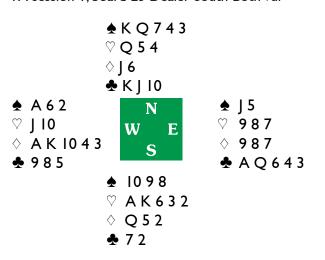
Their first opponents were Myalleri-Koivu from Finnland, who bid and made a slam only four pairs found, so that left them only a handful of matchpoints. Their second board went much better, as their competitive bidding meant they pushed the Finns out of hearts and no-trumps, both of which score better in this format, so the -IIO gave the same result as the previous one, but the other way round, so the pairs split the points overall.

Their second round was much worse. Bidding an obvious game was only worth 45%, as some pairs thought a nice 6-5 is worth bidding more on, even vulnerable against not, and were severly punished at the 5-level. Not our heroes, +420 was 45%. On the second board, Anna played very well to make 12 tricks in a heart contract, which only one other pair achieved, but sadly, these two were the ones missing an obvious vulnerable game, so it was worth almost no match points.

Things started to look up when Thorpe-Piibor from Austria did not bid a decent game that happened to make, but they never touched clubs in defense during the next hand, and declarer was happy to score up +150 in 1NT, for almost all the match points yet again. Sometimes MP bridge can be tough.

On board 23 they pushed the opponents (or maybe I should say the opponents pushed themselves) to the 3-level, and the defense was accurate this time:

FA session 1, board 23 Dealer South Both Vul



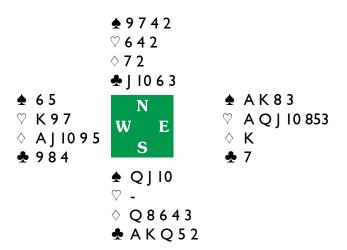
North	East	South	West
Grguric	Zareba	Stefanec	Majcher
		pass	1♦
♠	2♦	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

After Majcher opened I which is usually 5 cards (rarely 4) Zareba did well to raise him on three small, and Stefanec felt that a simple 2♠ raise would not give his hand a fair description (which is not true, seeing his diamond queen is probably not worth much after the suit was bid and raised).

So Grguric had to go higher, and the defense was merciless. Two rounds of diamonds were followed by two more tricks in clubs, with the trump ace still to come; +100 was 90% for the Poles.

Board 24 was not the time to open 4% in third seat with a strong hand, but several matchpoints could have been saved in defense.

FA session I, board 24 Dealer West None Vul



North	East	South	West
Majcher	Grguric	Zareba	Stefanec Pass
-	-	-	Pass
Pass	4♡	4NT	Dble
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

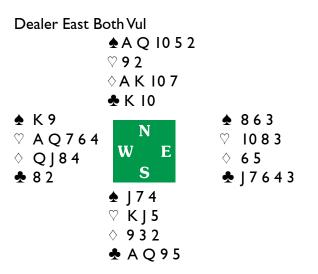
Anna started out well, cashing two spades, getting the news that her partner is ruffing the third round. Now would have been the time to cash the diamond king who else is going to have the ace but her partner? He did double 5cx after her preempt, and was obviously not having much in the black suits, and doubtful about having anything in hearts. Had she done that, they might have fared somewhat better, but it was not possible to beat the pairs who bid this nice 6% contract.



As it was, after the spade ruff, Arkadiusz could not imagine anything else but cash the diamond ace, and give his partner a ruff. +500 was still worth 50%.

Board 25 gave them a lucky break: Alex Birchall did not think $\triangle xx \heartsuit Kx \diamondsuit AKQx \triangle AKQxx$ was worth opening 2NT in fourth seat, and that meant she had to settle for +130 in 4Cx after the Poles bid and raised hearts. 2NT, even if Passed out, would have most likely scored +180 (one pair even bid game and scored +630). For our Polish heroes, it was 68%.

The second hand was even better for them, as a helpful lead was doubled up with friendly defense: FA session 1, board 26



North	East	South	West
Majcher	Natt	Zareba	Birchall
-	Pass	♣	ΙŸ
I♠	Pass	INT	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Natt thought the heart lead might not be too good with his 10xx, so tried a diamond, hoping for a third round ruff. This not only let one heart loser go away eventually on clubs (Majcher played the trumps well – he crossed to dummy in clubs, and played low to the queen, cashed the ace, cashed the club king and entered dummy with the spade jack to dispose of a heart) but also helped the double finesse in diamonds. It was Alex's fault after all not to cover the diamond 9 and let declarer have 4 tricks in that suit; 12 tricks was worth 20 of the possible 22 points.

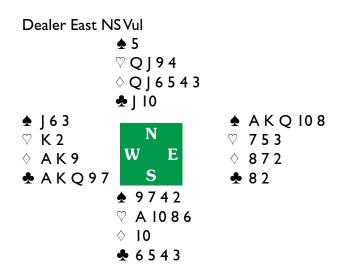
On the next board, the Polish club auction did not make it obvious which minor suit to lead, and Anna chose Kxxx vs 10xxx. Partner had AKxx in her weaker minor, so the winning lead would have saved an overtrick; they scored 5 matchpoints instead of 15, a huge difference in such a small field (remember, the finals were played byonly 24 pairs, giving only 12 comparisons).



Arkadiusz Majcher - Poland

On board 28, Majcher misbid, but it gave his side the chance to reach a good slam.

FA session 1, board 28



North	East	South	West
Zarzycka	Zareba	Jasinski	Majcher
-	Pass	Pass	♣
I ♦	I♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

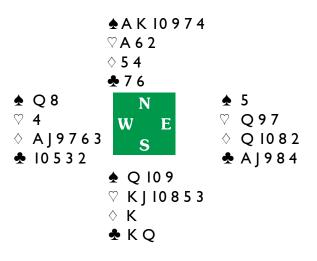
Anna was totally confused by the bidding, as 2\(\rightarrow\) denied more than 4 cards in the suit, but promised a good hand. Arkadiusz realized his mistake in time, and bid slam, only to be moved to 6NT, another making contract. The heart queen lead was ducked to her king, so she could have made an overtrick, but she was very happy with 12, as it gave her 21 points, only Lazarov-Teneva getting to the highest scoring contract beside them.



Against Sucharda-Kokot, another fellow Polish pair, a slip in defense gave declarer his 12th trick while everyone else took 11, for no points to our pair, but then most of it was given back:

FA session 1, board 30

Dealer East None Vul



North	East	South	West
Majcher	Kokot	Zareba	Susharda
_	Pass	Ι♡	3♦
3♠	5♦	5♠	All Pass

5 \diamondsuit would have been an excellent save – as it is, even 6 \diamondsuit would have been only down 300, for a near top (some pairs being down in 6 \spadesuit). So Anna did well to bid 5 \spadesuit , and it was down to Arkadiusz to make it.

The club ace was cashed, and the ♣2 probably showed even count. A diamond to the ace, followed by another club, and declarer rattled off his trumps (ruffing a diamond in the meantime), and that very first card, the club two, probably showed West has 6-4 in the minors, so Majcher would have gotten it right — but inadvertently Kokot discarded a heart, thinking she needed to keep her club jack, so that was that; +450 meant 68%.

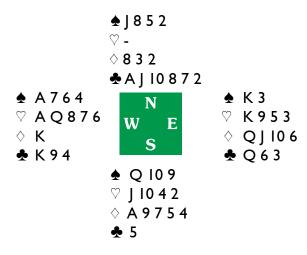


Anna Zareba - Poland

On their final seating, Kielbasa-Ocylok were friendly opponents. First, an unlucky (bad?) opening lead gave away a 3NT contract that scored our heroes 86% (do you lead king or small from KQ8xx? I would lead low, and so did many others, partner having A10 bare; Kielbasa led the king), but then came the final board of the set:

FA session 1, board 32

Dealer West EW Vul



North	East	South	West
Ocylok	Majcher	Kielabasa	Zareba
-	-	-	I♡
Pass All Pass	2NT	Pass	4♡

It looked like there is not much declarer can do: she has to lose 2 aces, and either a trump trick, or a club ruff, but with a bit of help, this did not materialise. Anna took the spade lead in dummy, and tried to sneak a diamond through. Ocylok was alert, and took her ace, but did not see any danger in returning a spade, her trump trick probably won't go away, and partner can take his club tricks if he has any (well, unless declarer discards them on diamonds, of course...). Now Anna Zareba showed she was not asleep when suit combinations were taught: she played a small trump from hand, and was rewarded when Kielbasa showed out! A trump to the ten and ace followed. Now she only needed North to duck a round of clubs, so she could enter dummy for another trump finesse, and lost only 2 aces in the end. +650 was 77%, and the session ended with them scoring 55%, the 6th best score, but with the carry over, they were lying second overall, very much in the hunt for the title.



MIXED PAIRS FINAL A

Rank Pair	Boards	MPs	96
1 BAKKE C SJODAL S.	14	643.96	60.98
2 ► KOHUTOVA L KLEMS E.	14	635.39	60.17
⋾ ■ BUUS THOMSEN E KOFOED J.	14	602.43	57.05
4 DEPERCARIO G DALPOZZO F.	14	590.78	55.95
5 III MYLLAERI M KOIVU O.	14	590.35	55.90
6 MAJCHER A ZAREBA A.	14	580.00	54.92
7 IHER M MAIDE R.	14	572.57	54.22
8 THORPE S PHBOR J.	14	558.30	52.87
B KOPKA K BALDYSZ Z.	14	547.17	51.82
10 ## BIRCHALL A NATT S.	14	541.74	51.30
II = LAZAROV D TENEVA G.	14	540.87	51.22
12 SOBCZAK M SUCHODOLSKA M.	14	522.26	49.46
13 E RIMSTEDT M CLEMENTSSON S.	14	520.09	49.25
14 = TIJSSEN L KOLEN S.	14	519.22	49.17
15 MARCINOWSKI P CIUNCZYK H.	14	501.70	47.51
16 SUCHARDA E KOKOT J.	14	497.83	47.14
17 E BUNE S BUNE S.	14	483.04	45.74
18 🗮 KILJAN V VISSER E.	14	480.52	45.50
19 KOLEK L STRBOVA B.	14	479.65	45.42
20 VASAR M LAAN S.	14	468.91	44.40
21 YANINSKI N KOSTOVA L.	14	449.61	42.58
22 E GRGURIC M STEFANEC K.	14	449.48	42.56
23 KIELBASA T OCYLOK D.	14	449.13	42.53
24 JASINSKI P ZARZYCKA M.	14	447.00	42.33







OPENING CEREMONY



MIXED PAIRS FINAL B

Rank	Pair	Boards	MPs	%
1 +	ROPER W SELWAY L.	14	873.34	59.33
2 =	LEMBER M TORV H.	14	843.66	57.31
3 🛨	BRASS T TUUS H.	14	843.34	57.29
4 🛨	DEAN N COVILL L.	14	841.67	57.18
5	CICHY K ZALEWSKA J.	14	828.66	56.29
6 =	KRAWCZYK B MROZEK M.	14	791.34	53.76
7	BAZYLUK J DASKO D.	14	783.34	53.22
8	BUKAT A CIBOROWSKA L.	14	776.80	52.77
9 =	PYTKA A SHINDLER A.	14	775.66	52.69
10 🛨	LEEMING I ROBSON I.	14	765.34	51.99
11 =	MACZKA S SZYMASZCZYK J.	14	761.33	51.72
12	BELLOY C NEVEU L.	14	757.66	51.47
13 =	GOTINK K CHRISTENSEN M.	14	747.66	50.79
14	DUFRENE B FRAGOLA M.	14	747.34	50.77
15	PATREUHA J JASKULECKA A.	14	743.66	50.52
16	OKUNIEWSKI W GRODZKA J.	14	738.08	50.14
17	CAPOBIANCO S LOMBARDI M.	14	734.00	49.86
18	HULANICKI P HULANICKA E.	14	724.67	49.23
19	PATREUHA P MYSLIWIEC A.	14	722.66	49.09
20	SZYMANSKI M DZIUBINSKA E.	14	722.66	49.09
21	BROGELAND A KJENSLI A.	14	722.33	49.07
22 =	GROCHOWSKI M MANKIEWICZ A.	14	719.34	48.87
23	BACZEK K HERNANDEZ RIZO M.	14	717.33	48.73
24 🛨	SELBY O LA CHAPELLE I.	14	713.67	48.48
25	MAJEWSKI K KRUPNIK P.	14	691.66	46.99
100	JONES M ROSE H.	14	689.66	46.85
27	GIUBILO G DALPOZZO V.	14	682.92	46.39
100	AUSTAD M OEBERG I.	14	673.00	45.72
29	ARSENTYEVA E STOLYAROV E.	14	670.33	45.54
30	HERMANN S EDER F.	14	669.34	45.47
31	TRENDAK L MELKONYAN K.	14	651.00	44.23
32	GORSKI M HULANICKA S.	14	646.34	43.91
33	GAVRILOVA E STRAUME T.	14	640.67	43.52
34	KOWAL K CIBOROWSKI K.	14	610.34	41.46

