

bridge club “dr.jurica tomljenović”



Date: 09.09.2006.
To: all welcome
From: tihana@pilar.hr
No: 01 – PULA 2006

goodmorning bridge

Hello everyone!

Here we are again at the beginning of another Pula bridge festival. We warmly welcome all of you to our late summer feast, hoping that you will fully enjoy this week of bridge and holidays.

As far as I know, this year we have guests from: Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine and USA. Adding Croatia we assemble 32 countries, so it looks like we seriously challenge european championships ☺. And this is only **the first record** you are going to see these days. By the way, if you are representing country that is not mentioned above, let us know.

For last few months I was trying to fulfill as many of your accommodation requests as possible. So if you are not supposed to sleep in an apartment that is about 10 miles from Histria, with bunch of total strangers speaking 5 different unknown languages, and if you are not paying about 100 euros a day for this global experience, you should thank me ☺.

Similar as we did the previous years, this year we arranged many facilities to make your stay more comfortable. First, there are well trained people who will assist you when you are lost or confused (you will recognize them easily because they are wearing tournament badges). They are here to help you so don't hesitate to make them useful. Second, this bi-daily bulletin will also provide you with all necessary information about events, results and much more. Please feel invited to join us at Press room, every

day, any time. Further, we will have huge projector close to registration desk where information will be displayed for those who find these letter too tiny to read ☺. Speaking of Registration desk... it will be open every day in the morning and at least 1 hour before every tournament. Please register for the tournaments in advance, and if you need a partner or teammates just put your name and basic details at Partner-list you can find at Registration desk. Experts from all over the world are just waiting to play with you. If you do really well at the tournament, you will have a chance to show your moves to the world as BBO is going to broadcast team event. Thanks so much BBO for helping us with this!

We prepared some little gifts for you, and you can collect them on Enrolment desk.

If you didn't bring enough clothes with you – no problem – we arranged bridge T-shirts for funny price of 10 euros. All sizes available.

If you are a new visitor of Pula festival, you will soon find out that playing bridge is just one side of the festival... since we are all accommodated close to the venue (thanks to whom?!), you will meet bridge players all day long, at seaside, in coffee bars, at the market, at the seaside, at tennis courts, everywhere. Even when you are in your room late at night, if you listen carefully, you will hear echo of someone talking about 2 diamonds doubled. You really can't escape from them... and why did I think it will sound good? Well, some very popular places are the Open pool of Punta Verudela apartments, coffee bar Banana – close to supermarket, and bar of hotel Histira, and Press room, of course. If you feel lonely at any time, you can surely find some interesting people at those places.

Have a great festival!

UPCOMING EVENTS

By Sandra & Tihana

IMP = TODAY!

Today we start with IMP tournament. In Croatia we call it Bulter. Yes, we know Butler is something completely different, but still we like that name.

Important details:

- Make your entries before 8 p.m., but please do it as early as possible. We are at Registration desk (ground floor of hotel Histria, right in front of playing area) waiting for your entry. *Entry fee should be paid at the table (for all pair tournaments, nice envelopes will wait for you at the table).* So all you are asked to do is to come to Registration desk before 8 p.m. and fill in your names on small paper which you can find on the enrolment desk. Please do it only once for every tournament. Double registrations are not the best way to make tournament bigger.
- start at 9 p.m. sharp
- 13-15 rounds, 2 hands per round

Here are the last years winners:

2005

Biel Wegner

Ilieva Hristov
Panina Rosenblum
Turczynowicz Rafalski
Andreev Krashennikov

2003

Weigkricht P.Vikor

Brouwer Bruggemann
Tomić Tesla
Bahnikova Bahnik
Stankowski Skakavci

2001

Buze Laszczak

Poklepović Julius
Vagi I. Weisz
Tica Mašić
Pasternak Araskiewicz

2004

Razik Szutowicz

Schneider Appelt
Janowski Lucko
Lyskawa Lassota
Gierlusi Sukow

2002

Jochev - Ivanova

Barzlewski - Waluzak
Kozyra-Ohryskox
Vainikonis-Kowalski
Carić J.-Petrović Z.
Kater-Jurek

2000

Ilieva - Hristov

Dolušić - Zoričić
Martinović - Novosel
Palmieri - Tramonto
Grzeidziak - Modrzejewsk
Szalay - Szilagyi

IMP WINNERS 2005: Biel Wegner:



MIXED TEAMS – TOMORROW

On Sunday we will play mixed teams. We have a list of players that are looking for partner or teammates, so if you still didn't find people to mix with try your luck at Register desk.

Some important details:

- Mixed team is a team of 4-6 players (minimum 2 men and minimum 2 women). Every partnership at the table should consist of one woman and one man. Ladies should sit South and East.
- Make your entries at Registration desk before 2 p.m., but do it as soon as possible.
- Start at 3 p.m.
- 6 rounds, 8 boards per round. First 3 rounds Swiss movement, second 3 rounds Danish movement.

orientation time table:

1st round: 15:00-16:05
2nd round: 16:20-17:25
3rd round: 17:40-18:45

(dinner break)

4th round: 21:00-22:05
5th round: 22:20-23:25
6th round: 23:40-00:45

- a team may introduce a substitute, a pair or player, after half of the match, but only in the open room
- a team may not enter later then 18:45, first bye (unplayed round) will be awarded 4VP (-7imps), and every additional unplayed round 5VP (-3imps). I have to mention that it would be at least strange to choose to join as at the end of 3rd round and that you need to have the chief's (Brk) permission to do so, but it is possible.
- in the case of an identical number of Vps, the standing will be determined as follows: total imps, number of Vps won in the last 3 rounds, number of imps won in the last 3 rounds, vps won in the head-on matches, imps won in the head-on matches, equally placed shared places and awards (really people, you can not have all that exactly the same. I would give out prizes to both pairs in that case, but that is the one of the reasons why Brk is chief and not me).

MIXED TEAMS WINNERS 2005: Terraneo



2005

1. **Terraneo** F.Terraneo S.Terraneo Kriftnr Franzel
2. **Queens of Hearts** Georgjeva Mihova Georgjev Nanev
3. **Losie** Kozyra Ohrysko Narkiewicz Szewczyk
4. **Ri-Wa** Alfejeva Skopinska Gonca Witkowski
5. **Nicola** Martini Matteucci Zeccini Paolini

2004

1. **Reasonables** - Protega I.Petrović T.Brkljačić Terraneo
2. **Nicola** - Matteucci Zecchini Paolini Martini
3. **Niko** - N.Šver Tomić M.Pilipović Du.Diklić
4. **Independent** - Chodorowska Chodorowski Pasternak Araszkiwicz
5. **Pulowniki** - Jarota Mscisz Jazdrzyk Filaber

2003

1. **Marvin** - Lončar, Zagajšek, Filjar, Refi
2. **Baby** - Furdzik, Lepiarczyk, Stankowski, Kusion, Dudzik
3. **Belan** - R. Muller, I. Matijević, A. Mixich, J. Carić, Grahek
4. **PALS** - Viktor, Daehr, Babsch, Weigkricht
5. **Cecylia** - Chodorowski, Latala, Chodorowska, Rimon

2002

1. **Nicola** - Zecchini, Martini, Matteucci, Paolini
2. **Zubr** - Miszewska, Bizon, Pasternak, Araszkiwicz
3. **Team name** - Zagajšek, Traub, Refi, Krautsak
4. **Panoramix** - Mezei, Konti, Kerekes, Varga
5. **Poroshin** - Poroshin, Zenkevich, Maytova, Bizer, Zenkevich

2001

1. **H + 3G** - Grzejdzia, Harasimowicz, Grzejdzia, Gardynik
2. **MARNI** - Šver N., Tomić, Mixich, Pilipović, Brkljačić M.
3. **FATER** - Welker, Szilagyi, Hegedus, Kemeny
4. **BRIDGE PLUS** - Juuri-Oja E., Honkavuori R., Juuri-Oja P., Honkavuori T.
5. **BUM – BUŠ** - Biondić, Urli, Miko, Šurkalović Lj., Brkljačić V., Orešković

2000

1. **IKF** - Szilagyi, Szalay, Kerekes, Nyaradi
2. **NICOLA** - Matteuci, Paolini, Mertini, Zecchini
3. **DANIELA** - Lončar, Filjar, Principe, Baldassin
4. **BMX2** - Bartis, Beck, Mackasy, Marjai
5. **IZVORKA** - I. Petrović, T. Perković, S. Ruso, D. Ruso

Most of the players we can find in this "result review" are with us this year too. It will not be easy to get to top-5.

There are many new people around too, and, interestingly, quite a lot of players (and some of them really good) asked me to find a partner for IMP tourney for them. So I made few new partnerships from people from different countries who didn't know each other before.

So how can anyone make prognosis? Will it be experienced partnership or two experts who play for the first time, or just a lucky "outsider" ?

Well, I wish you all to feel like winners and look (left) how good it feels!

You would like
to play mixed teams
but you have
noone to play with???

Just come to **Registration desk**
as early as possible
and put yourself on
partnership list!

WELCOME

Although most of us came for bridge here, it is worth to know how special this place is. So, for those arriving to Pula for the first time it may be interesting to find out more about the history of this 3.000 years old town.

It seems as though the amphitheater of Pula does not have enough "windows" to frame with its stone arches all the images of the voyage in time. This is the sixth largest Roman amphitheater in the world; certainly the most beautiful by its elegance. Between the mythical tradition and the three thousand years of continuity it is a unique place that gathers so many civilization differences.

This cannot be the site of boring performances, because arriving to the amphitheater in the evening is a happening by itself. The starry sky is the roof of this magnificent "palestra"; stone contours are the scenery for the most demanding performances.

The sea spreads along Stoja and Veruda, the summertime esplanade of the city of Pula. Magnificent, one of the loveliest in the Adriatic, stretches the promenade from camping Stoja or Valkane beach to Valsaline...

Almost within reach of the entrance to the city harbor stretches the Brijuni National Park, remnant of an Eden-like landscape, harmony of flora and fauna, undisturbed nature, hotels, modern ones, as well as remains of Roman villas...

THE LEGEND OF PULA

The legend of the Argonauts describes the pursuit of the Colchidians after the ship Argo and the Golden Fleece. The subjects of the king of Colchis gave up further pursuit after the death of their king's son. Fearing that they would be punished for his death and the failure of the quest if they returned to Colchis, they decided to settle where the prince had died. Pula therefore became not only a harbor of refuge to the Colchidian fugitives, but also their place of exile. The most famous geographer of the antiquity - Strabo - claims that this is how Pula was founded and according to this legend, it was about three thousand years ago.

TO THE PRESENT DAY

Pula was thus bound to Venetian economical and political aims, which defined its development for the

next few centuries. During the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries Pula was attacked and conquered by Genoese, Croatian-Hungarian and Habsburg armies, causing the devastation of numerous medieval settlements and villages.

Besides the war calamity, the population of Pula and Istria was decimated by numerous epidemics of plague, malaria, typhoid and small-pox.

As a result of the dilapidation of monumental buildings, ruined economy and decimated population Pula fell into disrepute. Nevertheless, due to its geographical position and the importance of its harbor for trade routes, Pula simply could not disappear. The town was saved by organized Croatian and South-Slav settling.

After the revolutionary year 1848, the Austro-Hungarian Empire realized the importance of Pula's harbor and started an intensive development of a huge naval port and shipyard. This resulted in the gradual settlement of Pula and within 50 years the population increased from 1,126 people to about 40,000.

Pula was still described as a village cut off from the rest of the world, but later on vast sums were invested in the sewage system and infrastructure. Eventually the investments transformed rural Pula into a prosperous town. With the new railway Pula gradually took over the role of Trieste and Rijeka as the main port for Dalmatia. This enabled Pula to develop two functions at the same time - the military and trading one. Under the protectorate of Vienna the official language in Pula was German, but Italian remained the everyday language in use among numerous social classes, while the use of Croatian very soon completely disappeared.

Such was the situation during World War II under the fascist rule, when Pula, as an antifascist town, organized its battle for the future under bomb raids and devastation, as well as reprisals over the historically defeated side. After the War and German occupation Pula came under the Anglo-American administration. In 1947 Pula finally turned to its natural hinterland - Croatia (according to the 1943 Resolution that defined Istria as a part of Croatia), and therefore Yugoslavia.

This caused still another exodus of the malcontent domiciliary Italian citizens. It marked the beginning of a new period in the history of Pula that lasted until Croatia gained independence.

CRO LADIES GO TO SHANGAI

By Dražen Martinović

For the very first time in Croatian history we succeeded in qualifying for the world championship.

This summer in Warsaw our girls were fighting hard (getting less than 10 victories in only one match), and get what they came for. Croatia was represented by: Nikica Šver, Marina Pilipović, Sandra Ruso, Nina Pećina, Renata Mueller and Izvorka Petrović. Non playing captain Bato Protega is greatly responsible for this success.

Statistics, what is it?

Croatian women's team were holding to the sixth place during the last three rounds of the European Championship. So, according to statistics chances were with Croatians to qualify for the World Championship in China for a first time and to make a history.

As it is usually the case the last match the girls had to play against actual winners from the Netherlands. Our girls had slight advantage in the VPs before they started their last match. They are playing fantastic, Croatian players at BBO are giving analysis, but there aren't official coverage. You can see the results on the internet, everything looks very nice.

Polish women, who are the biggest contenders are beginning to speed up and trash the Spanish, what gave even bigger task to our girls. Everybody knows that we need to beat the European champions if we want to qualify for the World Championship. Everything is fine but than disaster strikes, lots of imps are gone, we need some good board but it is not happening.

The time is passing, boards too, it is the last board of the European Championship. Irony, they played so many boards and now last one has to decide. Statistics is not on our side any more.

What is probability that player who already has won European Championship will be the only one to go one down in easy 1NT contract? Very small, but it happened. Nice thing happened for the Croatian women's bridge, Marina has grown up so Nikica wants to play with her and form the best partnership in country. They were 5th in Verona, they have been having good butler score all the time and finally they managed to qualify for the most prestigious women's championship Venice Cup.

More statistics shows that if we look only at the results of top six between themselves Croatia ladies are the leaders... a good reason to hope for a good result in Shanghai.



From left to right: Nikica Šver, Izvorka Petrović, Sandra Ruso, Bato Protega, Nina Pećina, Marina Pilipović, Renata Mueller.

TWILIGHT ZONE

Ride of the Valkyries

The epic story stolen, mutilated, raped and narrated by SchTsch

Pathetic cries of the wounded are lost in the war drums' noise deafening the whole battlefield and as the smoke blurs the vision of remaining warriors the combat heats up. Two Valkyries, Gunnr and Skuld, in their shiny armor riding their wolves march in the battle bringing death and destruction with their spears in one hand and double-dummy problems books in the other. Carnage is all around, blood swims the air and through the dust that arose in the chaos of combat there appears a respectful opponent. The Valkyries grab their convention cards and coffee cups taking the non vulnerable North-South positions ready for the battle.

Dealer: E

Vulnerable: EW

♠ AK97
♥ KJ5
♦ A6
♣ Q984

♠ QJ32
♥ AQ982
♦ Q
♣ AJ7

♠ 854
♥ 103
♦ KJ1093
♣ K52

♠ 106
♥ 764
♦ 87542
♣ 1063

W	N	E	S
	Skuld		Gunnr
		p	p
1♥	X (1)	p	2♦
X (2)	XX (3)	p (4)	p
p (5)			

(1) Being unable to bid natural 1NT because Odin forbid that treatment a long time ago Skuld had to double the opening bid.

(2) Some would say normal competitive take-out double. Odin says "Let the games begin".

(3) Some would say normal competitive take-out redouble. It would be very pleasant to have the opponents play something doubled for +200 or more. They just have to take out the take out redouble.

(4) It must be Christmas! I'll put my sock on the fireplace...

(5) After 15 minutes of contemplation West hit the gold vein. Let the massacre begin!

Result: 2♦XX -3, Valkyries -1000

That was worth 14imps compared to 2♦ -2 in the other room. There are rumors that after this board Odin finally allowed natural 1NT overcall on a major opening bid.

Well, the battle is lost but the war is still ongoing and the road to Valhalla is paved with corpses. Very soon another epic struggle took place.

Dealer: E

Vulnerable: NS

♠ QJ8752
♥ 9854
♦ 3
♣ K9

♠ AK1094
♥ 632
♦ QJ4
♣ 62

♠ 3
♥ KQJ
♦ A109752
♣ 1074

♠ 6
♥ A107
♦ K86
♣ AQJ853

W	N	E	S
	Skuld		Gunnr
		1♦	2♣
2♠	X (1)	p	p (2)
p (3)			

(1) It is presumable that it was just a curiosity issue Skuld asking West whether 2♠ was forcing or not. The fact that on the forcing bid double would be Rosenkranz and on the non forcing penalty obviously had nothing to do with it.

(2) Well, Gunnr wasn't curious at all. "It is obvious that 2♠ is non forcing and that partner took out her hatchet. It's a head chopping time!"

(3) What the f#\$%?

2♠ was forcing, of course, and the double was Rosenkranz. Old George would probably be very proud on the usage of his invention.

Result: 2♠X -4, Valkyries +800.

This Gunnr's beautiful variation on the Rosenkranz theme was worth 14 imps compared to 3♦ = from the other room. East and West were outrageous, they first sought protection from the local law enforcement, and when they failed to achieve that even complained to the supreme court. Well, as there was no wrong information on the board, and every player has the right to pass partner's Rosenkranz double with a singleton, even supreme court turned their back on them. Battle won!

As the war reaches its climax, fearsome warriors have a growing thirst for coffee. Along with shields, spears, books and make-up kits, cups of coffee make a lot of mess on the narrow area of the bridge table. It is not rare that in the heat of the battle coffee gets spilt on shields, spears, books, make-up kits and even the playing cards. After one of those incidents involving a big cup of Lavazza coffee and a hand of playing cards the interesting combat emerged.

Dealer: E

Vulnerable: none

♠ J72

♥ A

♦ 1094

♣ 1098754

♠ K10

♥ KQJ1042

♦ 5

♣ Q63

♠ A9543

♥ 96

♦ A763

♣ AJ

♠ Q86

♥ 8753

♦ KQJ82

♣ 2

W	N	E	S
	Skuld		Gunnr
		1♠	p
2♥	p	2♠	p
3♥	p	4♣	p
4♥	all pass		

The bidding was by the book. West bid her 2613 hand perfectly and lacking the strength refused to cue bid after partner made a move towards slam. 4♥ was the final contract and on the ♦10 lead declarer quickly claimed 11 tricks, obviously feeling lazy to struggle for the 12th trick. Well, the only problem for the defense was to point out the card that will take the second defensive trick. Declarer claimed that it is the king of clubs.

The only problem was its location as it turned out that neither Skuld nor Gunnr had it. After the complex analysis by the authorities that involved counting to 13 and various other difficult tasks, it appeared that the Lavazza coffee incident managed to glue the unfortunate king to another card in West's hand thus hiding it from the public. Of course, East and West complained that they would bid slam with the king of clubs in West's hand, and then Skuld complained that she would be very pleased with them reaching 6♥ as she is convinced that then the only normal lead would be a club, beating the contract via a club ruff. This mud fishing was awarded with 12 tricks for the East and West.

Result: 4♥ +2, Valkyries -480

At the end of all that fuss Valkyries lost 1 imp on the board compared to 4♥ +1 from the other room where the club lead held declarer to 11 tricks.

*The war came to an end. Many battles were fought and many died by the sword. The ride of the Valkyries finished victoriously announcing a new epic battle in the far east land. Sharpen your spears, polish your shields, complete your make-up kits and feed the wolves. **Shangai beware!***

The Valkyries are on the ride again.

Your partner is celebrating birthday (or anniversary or whatever) these days????

You want to thank your sponsors?

You say – we publish!

Just come to the Press Room Goodmorning bridge

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PARTNER OR TEAM MATES ???
PUT AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN GOODMORNING BRIDGE**

MORE THAN A GAME

7up

By Marko Kobas

It was the year of 1999. The millenium bug was looming above the world, The Matrix and The Phantom Menace arrived to the cinemas, Michael Jordan finally said goodbye to basketball, and i finished my bridge course. That made everything turn upside down.

In those first days of bridge, my main reading was the HBS (Croatian Bridge Federation) bulletin. In the bulletin I was following, among other things, the adventures of the Croatian team. They were my heroes. And the articles written by Pavo Marinković were a special treat, I almost knew them by heart. My favourite character was Nikica Šver, Pavo's partner. Her mere presence at the table, placed chill into everybody's hearts. From Špiljak's articles I had learned my first conventions, adopted the term of "astral bridge", and also learned that one does not have to bid every board in the exact same way that they advise you to in books.

In the same 1999, my partner Ozren and I came to our first tournament - Spring Pula. Before the tournament, we were going through our most complicated convention again - DONT, and we solemnly swore to one another, for the one hundred and first time, that we wouldn't pass take-out doubles. The appearance was to be remembered by 5 spades doubled which we stole, against daddy Kule and our Jak, and by their constructive discussion after the board. Also by one lady (who i later got to know as Mrs Ivančić) who was the only one who talked to us, andddddddddd by our fantastic result: we were +7, and earned some points for the HBS rank list! Now that was a tournament!

Other than the result triumph, what made me remember Pula 1999 was that i had seen my heroes from the bulletin live, for the first time. My favourite heroin an i even played in the same room, and if there were only a few more rounds, we would have played against eachother. my partner looked at me in a worried manner while i was counting the tables to see if we meet.

Nikica completely justified her role, she wasn't some old lady, which was my secret fear, just the opposite, she was young and beautiful.

She gave a serious and dangerous impression, just like a true superhero needs to look while performing its duty. You could see that there was no fooling around with her. And that is my opinion today as well.

Year 2006. The first Brazilian astronaut, goes to space, Albert II, Prince of Monaco, reaches the North Pole, becoming the first reigning monarch ever to do so. I was again at the Spring Pula tournament, playing butler, and I went to see where I was supposed to sit. NS 1 in room B, "**Šver N.- Kobas**". Oh yes, 7 years later, same place, i was playing with Nikica. I remember thinking: this is it, now i can stop playing!

And maybe it would have been for the best if I had just stopped playing then, because i played terribly. I let through a few games, found a way to go down in 2 or 3 games which were cold. In the end, we were +7imps. 7 years of trying, and yet the same result, +7. It simply couldn't go better that evening.

Nikica later won the teams and the pairs in that same event, playing with Marina, she came 5th in the World Championship in Verona, was a member of the Croatian team which made it to the Venice Cup.... pointless to start writing all that she had won that year. It is enough if i just say: she continued doing her superhero job seriously.

I wish you luck superwoman. ☺



TRUMP DISCARDS MY WAY

By Srfa

As time is passing by and we are getting older, I begin to fear that time is running-up to make some significant contribution to bridge theory. On many occasions I was thinking that finally I have devised new and original bidding convention, only to find out that somebody else is already using it to loose IMP-s, just as I do. In that case I hopefully ask for name of convention. Name turns out to be completely different from my name. How come?! Well, that's annoying. It's getting impossible to come up with any piece of bidding convention that is not already devised. My most promising attempt was "Srfa 3 NT convention" where 3 NT opening is showing balanced preempt in no-trumps. But, apparently some guys in Scandinavia are using that for ages, and it's called "Die hard 3 NT". It's even classified by WBF as "purple sticker" convention, i.e. you are allowed to play it only if everybody around table is having purple nose. I say, it's time to give up any hope for registering new bidding convention...

But wait a minute; bridge is not just about bidding! You have to play some cards as well. Some smart guys like McKenney and Lavinthal have registered their conventions in that segment of game as well. Could I find something not conquered yet? Lead conventions, signals when starting or following in plain and trump suit, discard in plain suit... Rats, everything is covered. But what about discarding in trump suit? AHA! Obviously it's time to share with world discarding in trump suit my way!

So, you are defending against suit contract, and declarer or partner has started a new trick in a plain suit. Time arrives for you to play a card. You inspect your holding in that suit. You can't locate any holding in that suit. Normally you would start to panic, but as you must be expert player since you are reading this article (or will become one after finishing it), you will not admit it. You draw a right conclusion – you are VOID in suit led! Your panic is soon replaced by joy of playing such liberal game as bridge, as you know that you are now allowed to play **any** of remaining cards in your hand! But such freedom of choice brings you also burden of responsibility, especially so if you happen to love all cards remaining in your hand. First idea is to discard some useless card in one of two remaining plain suits. But you are an expert, so

you will be careful to make some signal related to number of spots on card you will choose to discard. But key question is: are you expert enough to consider discarding from trump suit?

Once you think of it, you realize it might be great idea! Sometimes, you might win a trick from discarding that way!

OK, you have decided to discard a trump.

But you are an expert, so you search for improvement. Maybe you could signal some information to you partner while discarding your trump. Could this really be possible?

Ok, I can't delay it any more. Here is how my convention of trump discards works:

- if your current trump holding consists of just one card, and you discard it, you are signaling to your partner that you don't have any trumps left.
- If you do have more than one trump, things are more complex:
 - a. If you discard your highest trump, you are signaling to your partner that you also possess at least one lower.
 - b. Alternatively, if you discard your lowest trump, you are signaling that you might need your higher trump(s) in future.
 - c. If you choose to discard one of your middle trump(s), you are signaling that you currently hold at least three trumps.
 - d. If you choose to discard a trump to trick which is likely to be won by your partner anyway, you are signaling to him that you don't trust his ability to make some intelligent move in next trick (WARNING: don't use this part of convention on ZERO-TOLERANCE tournament as you will be penalized. Otherwise, you have to alert it! If asked for explanation, explain that partner is stupid or in love or both).

Playing that simple, yet efficient convention, you also gain for free some delicate negative inferences. For instance, if you are in position to discard, and you don't discard a trump, partner has every right to suspect that you are out of them! Or, if you discard a trump and win a trick, your partner can safely deduce that you will not be able to return a suit on which you have discarded (in fact I did return it few times, but in this article I am introducing my conventions, not my coups...)

Don't even think about coming to me with claim that you are already playing this convention. It's mine, so go ahead, be creative, and devise something for yourself. Time is running out anyway☺



FESTIVAL RULES

- ♠ Always be on time!
- ♠ Make your registration in advance!
- ♠ For both pair and team games you should register at Registration desk at least one hour before tournament starts, but please do it as soon as possible.
- ♠ Open pairs MP is limited to 288 pairs, so make your registration TODAY!
- ♠ For team games you pay your entry fee at Registration desk, but for pair tournaments you pay it at the table in the first round (please prepare exact amount of money in advance)
- ♠ Slow play will not be tolerated
- ♠ Remain seated until the change is announced!
- ♠ Follow the ALERT procedure!
- ♠ 1 NT opening bid, if not 15-18 balanced variety must be alerted!
- ♠ 1NT opening bid less than 10 Hcp is not allowed
- ♠ 1NT opening bid tolerates singleton A or K
- ♠ 1NT opening with small singleton (Q or lower) is not allowed unless it is part of the system in which case it should be alerted.
- ♠ HUM and brown stickers are not allowed (please check with TD if you are not sure about conventions you use)
- ♠ Do not alert after 3NT
- ♠ Psychics in strong openings are not allowed
- ♠ Use the stop card always or never (same as your partner)
- ♠ The convention card is not mandatory but it is recommended for your protection – you can get convention card at Registration desk.
- ♠ Make your opening leads faced down
- ♠ Leave the boards, the bidding boxes and the score sheets on the table.
- ♠ Be nice to your partner, opponents, officials of the tournament and others...only together we can make this tournament friendly and convenient place for all.

BRIDGE IS FUN... (from: <http://www.d16acbl.org> & http://www.kantarbridge.com/humor_stories.htm)

- John Zilic thought long and hard before deciding what was the best line of play in his 4H contract. After choosing an unsuccessful line he turned to his right-hand opponent (Ira Hessel) ...
Zilic: "Did you hold the Spade Queen?"
Ira: "Yes."
Zilic: "How long?"
Ira: "Throughout the entire hand."
- I was playing with my mother, Mary Bruce, when this conversation occurred.
Mary: "I was hoping to bid some more. I was five-five in the blacks."
Steve: "Oh, really? What were they?"
Mary: "Spades and Clubs."
- Giving a class on how to get rid of losers, I prepare a lesson hand and then ask this lady how she plan to get rid of her losers. She says: I am going to lose them right away so I don't have to worry about them any more."
- Two ladies are playing against Jim Linhart who is 7 feet tall. One says, "Alice, hold your cards back, he can see." Jim says, "Alice, it's too late."

You won a tourney ?

Come to Press room or you will not be winning again soon ☺ !

We invite the winners of all tournaments to visit us in Press room.

We will not force you to write if you don't want to but photos need to be taken.

You didn't win a tourney ?

?HOWCOME?

...you must come to Press room and tell us all about it...