

# 2016 Budapest, Hungary

## 53rd European Bridge Team Championships

16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016



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# HUNGARY - THE REAL EURO 2016



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JUNE 16, 2016



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For the first time since 1937 Hungary plays host to the European Bridge Team Championships (although the Youth Championships were staged in Budapest in 1986).

In those now far off years, the Championships were dominated by Austria and Hungary, who between them won five of the seven contests between 1932 and 1938, only France managing to disturb their joint hegemony.

Could it be that the concept of synchronicity caused these two great nations to meet in the 'other' Euros just two days ago? What is certain is that they will both be hoping to recapture the glory of those early years here in Budapest.

## SCHEDULE AND BBO SCHEDULE TODAY

**10.00:**  
**Women's Pairs**  
**Open Teams**

**BBO:**

- ♂ ROM - HUN (O)
- ♂ GRE - SWE (O)
- ♂ SWI - LAT (O)
- ♂ GER - AUT (O)
- ♂ EST - FAR (O)
- ♂ RUS - UKR (O)

**13.20:**  
**Women's Pairs**  
**Open Teams**

**BBO:**

- ♂ IRE - ENG (O)
- ♂ NOR - ISR (O)
- ♂ SPA - DEN (O)
- ♂ TUR - NED (O)
- ♂ SWI - GER (O)
- ♂ HUN - ICE (O)

**16.00:**  
**Women's Pairs**  
**Open Teams**

**BBO:**

- ♂ AUT - NED (O)
- ♂ HUN - GER (O)
- ♂ ROM - BEL (O)
- ♂ ITA - POR (O)
- ♂ FRA - GRE (O)
- ♂ TUR - CZE (O)

**18.40:**  
**Women's Pairs**  
**Open Teams**

**BBO:**

- ♂ MON - FRA (O)
- ♂ NOR - SWE (O)
- ♂ CRO - SER (O)
- ♂ DEN - POL (O)
- ♂ SCO - HUN (O)
- ♂ UKR - WAL (O)

**LEGEND:** ♂ ON SITE VG + BBO    ♂ BBO ONLY    ♂ VOICE + BBO





# MATCHES TODAY

## OPEN ROUND 1

ROM HUN
GEO POL
SWI LAT
GER AUT
ICE BLR
FIN FRA
SER TUR
NED WAL
EST FAR
GRE SWE
CZE IRE
ENG SPA
RUS UKR
CRO ITA
CYP NOR
ISR BEL
POR BUL
SCO MON
DEN Bye

TIME: 10.00

## OPEN ROUND 2

BUL ROM
BEL LAT
ITA SCO
NOR ISR
SPA DEN
UKR POR
SWE CYP
IRE ENG
WAL RUS
FAR CRO
FRA CZE
TUR NED
AUT EST
BLR GRE
POL SER
SWI GER
HUN ICE
GEO FIN
MON Bye

TIME: 13.20

## OPEN ROUND 3

ROM BEL
GEO ICE
MON LAT
ITA POR
NOR SCO
SPA ISR
UKR DEN
SWE CRO
IRE CYP
WAL ENG
FAR RUS
FRA GRE
TUR CZE
AUT NED
BLR EST
POL FIN
SWI SER
HUN GER
BUL Bye

TIME: 16.00

## OPEN ROUND 4

ROM EST
LAT CZE
NED GRE
ENG ICE
RUS GER
CRO SER
CYP FIN
ISR SWI
DEN POL
POR GEO
SCO HUN
BUL TUR
MON FRA
BEL BLR
ITA IRE
NOR SWE
SPA FAR
UKR WAL
AUT Bye

TIME: 18.40



# ADVENTURES WITH OTTLIK

by Mark Horton

In 1977 the first Junior European championships were held in Budapest. Geza Ottlik composed deals for the camp that followed and proved the model for many of the deals in Adventures in Cardplay. We will give you the opportunity to solve one of these problems each day.

Board 1  
North Dealer

♠ 7 6 4 2  
♥ Q 10 7 3  
♦ 10 6  
♣ A 6 2

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

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	2NT

1♣ Strong  
1♦ Negative

Play Instructions:  
4♥ by South.  
West to lead ♠5.

*The solution  
will be published  
tomorrow  
along with another problem*

### Keep in touch

If you would like to comment on any aspect of the Championships, submit an article for publication, advertise your forthcoming events, report an analytical error (heaven forbid!) etc contact the Editor: markhorton007@hotmail.com



# CHAMPIONSHIP DIARY

by Mark Horton

If you are planning to follow the Championships on BBO Traian Chira has prepared a page with player profiles, teams, Convention Cards, and a lot of useful information:

<http://livebridge.net/bbo/wbf/2016ebtc.php>

Hungarian is supposedly a notoriously hard language (well, not for Hungarians) and there's no doubt that pretty much every word is hard to pronounce, but one of the most common victims is the famous *Gulyás soup*. It doesn't help that this is often written as "Goulash" on menus but the actual pronunciation is more like gu-y-arsh (y as in yolk, arsh as in marsh).

Pronounce the capital like this: Buddah-pesht.

Searching for interesting information about our hosts, I discovered that Hungary has won

476 medals at the summer Olympic Games, making Hungary 8th in the world on the all-time medal tally. Not to mention that no fewer than twelve Hungarians are Nobel Prize winners.

Hungarians are brilliant inventors:

You've probably tried to solve a Rubik's Cube at least once in your life, but did you know that this brain-teaser is the brain-child of Hungarian Ernő Rubik? 2014 marks 40 years since this challenging little cube was invented and through the decades hundreds of millions have been sold. Another Hungarian invention is the ballpoint pen, also known as the biro. It was invented by László Bíró in 1938 and by replacing the quill and fountain pens, the biro is said to have changed the way we write. Ányos Jedlik is thought to be the first to have made a soda-water machine, while Joseph Petzval invented binoculars and opera glasses among other things. The safety match was invented by János Irinyi in 1836. Vitamin C was discovered by Albert Szent-Györgyi, who won the 1937 Nobel Prize for Medicine, in part, for this discovery. The tungsten lamp was created by the work of Sándor Just and Imre Bródy among others.

In the unlikely event that you might want to enjoy the odd glass of wine with your dinner here is a short guide to some of the best regions and growers:

Badacsony \*\* -\*\*\* - lookout for Szeremley and Villa Sandahl, Villa Tolnay & Laposa

Balatonbolgar \*\* -\*\*\* - Garamvari, Konyari, Legli Otto, Legli Geza & Varga

Bikaver - Bulls Blood 07, 08, 09, 11 - look out for Szekszard, Eszterbauer Tuke 09 & 11, Heimann &

Takler

Demeter, Zoltan - intense dry wines, \*\*\*-\*\*\*\* 11 & 12 esp Veres, Kakas, and Lapis. The 09 Eszter late harvest is also very good.

Disznoko is an important Tokaj estate as is Dologo Eger is a top red region, with Egri Bikaver the most famous

Essencia - the richest and rarest of all Hungarian Tokaji wines.

Gere, Attila, 06, 07, 08, 09, 11, leading light in making red wines, Solus Merlot and the Cabernet Sauvignon are worth watching out for.

Heimann, family winery, a superb Barbar and Franciscus Cuvee.

Konyari, father and son making high quality wines, watch for the reds, Pava, Sessio & Janoshegy Kekfrankos.

On a lighter note I receive an email from a friend that reads:

'A pal has two tickets for the Euro 2016 Final in Paris but when he got them he hadn't realised that it was going to be on the same day as his wedding, so he can't go. If you're interested and want to go instead of him it's at All Saints Church in Sutton Benger. Her name's Elizabeth.'

Lest you are in any doubt about the fact that bridge can be a dangerous game here is the evidence:

Communications Manager Fotis Skoularikis was injured when a wardrobe containing the boards to be used in the Championships decided to fall on top of him. Luckily nothing is broken, but it will be a while before he can put his best foot forward.





# OUT FOR BLOOD

by Mark Horton

On the first of April 1982, Alan Truscott's column in the New York Times was entitled:

## The New York Times



### *Bridge Hungarian Analysts' Book Apparently Has No Flaws*

The multitude of books that analyze bridge deals are subject to an unhappy generalization:

The reader who looks hard enough will find an error.

This generalization broke down when the Scottish player-writer Hugh Kelsey set about revising a classic first published in 1960: *"Spotlight on Cardplay"* by two great Hungarian analysts, Robert Darvas and Paul Lukacs.

Kelsey found nothing to improve, but much to admire, as will any reader. The 67 deals are presented as single-dummy problems, with two hands revealed.

### South Is Out for Blood

One of the most elegant deals in the collection is shown in the diagram.

East/West Vul.

♠ J 10 7 2  
♥ 10 6 5 2  
♦ Q 6 5 4 2  
♣ —

♠ A Q  
♥ A K J  
♦ A K 8 7  
♣ A K J 10

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	6NT

West led the diamond jack.

To test himself, the reader should plan the play in 6NT. A more natural contract would be 6♦, but South is playing rubber bridge and, in the absence of

partnership confidence, takes an immediate plunge.

The diamond jack is led, and South wins with the king, noting that East follows. The authors now ask their first question: How many diamond tricks have you?

Most players would quickly answer "five," but South cannot count on more than four: If the missing diamonds are in the same hand, he will be stuck in his hand after the fourth round of the suit.

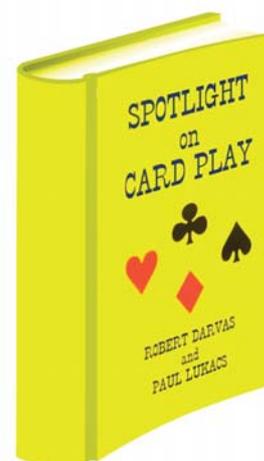
The next question is: "Is there any way of unblocking?" And the answer is yes. The establishment of a major-suit winner in dummy will permit the discard of the seven or eight of diamonds to good effect.

"How do you set about doing that?" the reader is asked. There are some routine attempts: lead the A-Q of spades, or lead the A-K-J of hearts. But these plays are liable to fail if a defender holds off.

It costs South nothing to cash the heart ace, in the faint hope that the queen will fall. He should then lead the queen of spades. If the defence takes this trick, he is safe, for at the right moment he will throw a diamond on a winning spade, unblocking and take three spade tricks, two hearts, five diamonds and two clubs.

So the defenders do best to reject the offered spade trick. Now South carries out the same plan in hearts, by leading the jack. If this is taken, he will again have 12 tricks, for the heart ten in dummy will eventually allow the blocking diamond in the South hand to be discarded.

If the defence refuses the heart trick, South can play clubs to establish his 12th trick, and he might as well lead the ten. The defenders are now in the habit of refusing tricks, and if they refuse again, he may sometimes have an overtrick.



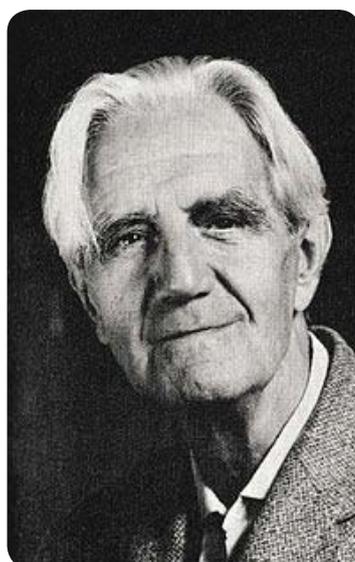




# MADE IN HUNGARY

by Mark Horton

Géza Ottlik was a Hungarian writer, translator, mathematician, and bridge theorist. When he died in 1990 one obituary said he was known in Hungary as 'the ultimate authority on Hungarian prose'.



Ottlik spent his life in Budapest. He attended military school, and studied mathematics and physics at Budapest University between 1931 and 1935. After a brief career on Hungarian radio, he was a secretary of the Hungarian PEN Club from 1945 to 1957. As he was unable to publish his works for political reasons, he earned his living translating. He translated mainly from English (Charles

Dickens, George Bernard Shaw, John Osborne & Evelyn Waugh); and German (Thomas Mann, G. Keller & Stefan Zweig).

He was a passionate bridge player and advanced theoretician. Alan Truscott placed him 'among the strongest candidates' for 'the bridge writer with the greatest creativity in terms of card-play theory'. His 1979 book *Adventures in Card Play*, written with Hugh Kelsey, introduced and developed many new concepts such as the Backwash squeeze and the Entry-shifting squeeze.

The Backwash squeeze involves squeezing an opponent behind declarer's menace. A variation of this, known as the 'Seres Squeeze', was discovered in play at a rubber bridge game in Sydney, Australia in 1965, by the legendary Australian Tim Seres.

By nature, the Backwash squeeze is a trump squeeze without the count. It occurs when the declarer (or dummy) has high trump(s) but must not draw the opponents' remaining trump(s). Instead, he ruffs a card high, and the opponent playing after, still having trump(s), must choose to under-ruff or unguard one of the menaces, either in the form of a direct trick or an exit card, allowing a later endplay. Since the squeeze may be without the count, the squeezed defender might take a later trick.

Here is a classic backwash ending:

♠ K J		
♥ 3 2		
♦ A 5		
♣ —		
♠ 8 5 4	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 N W E S             </div>	♠ —
♥ —		♥ Q
♦ K J		♦ 10 9 4 2
♣ 5		♣ J
♠ A 7		
♥ —		
♦ Q 8 3		
♣ 9		

Playing 6♠, declarer needs five of the last six tricks.

Declarer ruffs a heart with the ace of spades and West is backwash-squeezed. If West under-ruffs, declarer will draw trumps, cash the two red suit winners, and concede the last trick.

If West discards his club, declarer plays two rounds of trumps and leads the ♥3, pitching the ♣9. West can ruff but must then lead into the split diamond tenace.

If West discards a diamond, declarer crosses to the ♦A and discards the ♣9 on the ♥3. West can ruff, however a club return allows declarer to ruff in hand, and any other return allows declarer to draw trumps and claim the remaining tricks.

This is the Seres variation:

♠ 9		
♥ J		
♦ —		
♣ 10		
♠ 7 5	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 N W E S             </div>	♠ J
♥ —		♥ Q
♦ J		♦ —
♣ —		♣ 7
♠ —		
♥ —		
♦ 10 6		
♣ 9		

Clubs are trumps, but if declarer draws the outstanding trump he will be stuck in dummy with two losers. So declarer ruffs a diamond with the ♣10, and

East is caught in the backwash of the ruff:

If East under-ruffs, South ruffs himself back to hand and cashes the established diamond.

If East discards, that promotes a winner in dummy, which South cashes, ready to over-ruff on either the next-to-last or last trick

Here is one of the most famous examples of the entry-shifting squeeze:

This board occurred in a knockout match in Norway's Teams Championship.



**Geir Helgemo**  
**MONACO**

Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ A 9 7 4 3  
♥ K 8 7 6 3  
♦ A 6  
♣ 7

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

West	North	East	South
Skjetnes	Lund	Forfot	Helgemo
—	—	—	1♠
2♠	2NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

West's 2♠ showed at least 5-5 in hearts and clubs, and 2NT from North was a game force with spade support. The 3♣ bid from South was natural, and North's 4♣ showed shortage in their system, even in his partner's second suit, this time certainly a fine message for South. Over the 4NT key-card ask, Lund continued with valuable information about the trump queen and two key cards. The reason he showed the trump queen was because of his fifth trump opposite a five-card spade opening.

West led the club king, taken by South's ace after East followed with the jack. The contract is laydown if the trumps are 2-1. If the trumps are 3-0 declarer will be able to pick up East's trump holding, but there is no obvious line to thirteen tricks after three rounds of trumps, since there will not be enough ruffs. So why bother thinking of the 3-0 trump break anyway? Because it is quite a likely layout! Helgemo's first analysis was about the distribution, and after his conclusion he backed his judgement to play in a way that is

difficult for most of us to spot even seeing the full diagram. Helgemo's reasoning: West is likely to have six clubs unless East has played the jack from a doubleton, but why would he? West has also shown five hearts, so the 3-0 break in trumps is becoming more and more likely. West's distribution is quite likely to be 1=5=1=6 or 0=5=2=6. What about the diamonds? If West has only one diamond, it gives East an eight-card suit, which most players would have announced over North's two no trump. And if West has the 1=5=1=6 distribution, he could have led his trump. After all, trump leads against grand slams are de rigeur according to the classic rule. So the 0=5=2=6 distribution with West is definitely the most likely one. But we have just agreed there will be no way to thirteen tricks by picking up East's trump holding anyway, haven't we? Well, there is a way. Look at the full diagram, and follow Helgemo's brilliant play, based on a technical analysis of the hand which proves he is some sort of a human GIB:

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

At trick two, Helgemo played ace of hearts followed by the diamond king. (There is a case for playing a low diamond to the ace and proceeding in a similar way to Helgemo, but see below for Helgemo's explanation of the reason he did not). Backing his assumption about the distribution, he continued with a diamond to the ace. Then he cashed the king of hearts before he

played the spade nine from dummy, and ran it! What is the difference between the direct finesse and playing the ace first? You will soon see that both cashing the two diamond tricks and not touching the ace of spades are essential to success. When the spade nine held, he continued with a spade to the jack leaving this position:

♠ —	♠ A 7 4	♠ Q			
♥ Q J 9	♥ 8 7 6	♥ —			
♦ —	♦ —	♦ Q J 8 5 4			
♣ Q 10 9	♣ —	♣ —			
<table style="border: 2px solid green; background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-table;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px 10px;">S</td></tr> </table>			N	W E	S
N					
W E					
S					
♠ K 10 6	♠ —	♠ —			
♥ —	♥ —	♥ —			
♦ —	♦ —	♦ —			
♣ 6 5 4	♣ —	♣ —			

West had to discard on the first two rounds of trumps, and on both of them he had to pitch clubs as he could not let go a heart, which would have enabled declarer to set up the fifth heart. Now the spade king was played at which point West was down to three hearts and three clubs. If West discards another club on the spade king, declarer plays a low spade from dummy, and simply establishes the fifth club with two ruffs. He still has two trumps as entries to his hand. If West instead throws a heart, declarer is able to overtake the trump king with the ace and work on the heart suit, and still have enough entries to set up the fifth heart and collect it. To produce this elegant trump squeeze situation, declarer must cash the two diamond tricks before the third round of trumps, but more importantly he must also take a first-round finesse in trumps by playing the nine and running it. The key is to be able to play a third round of trumps from South in the situation where West is trump squeezed, and be able to decide in which hand the third trump is to be taken, according to what card West plays to that trick. This hand not only contains a spectacular squeeze that occurs after declarer has manoeuvred trumps in such a way as to enable him to choose which hand he wants to be in on the third trump round of the suit, but also a first-round finesse for the trump queen in a grand slam, with ten trumps between declarer and dummy! That trump finesse is based on perfect visualisation of the distribution, and also foreseeing the complex and unusual squeeze coming up. The grand slam was reached at the other table too, but declarer was not able to duplicate Helgemo's play and went one down. Some analysts would claim that declarer should play a low diamond

to dummy at trick two, then run the spade nine followed by a spade to the jack. If the trumps prove to be 3-0, declarer can proceed as Helgemo did by cashing the diamond honour from his hand before the third trump round. This will save declarer from going down when West – against what is the most likely distribution – has 1=5=1=6 anyway, and does not hold the bare trump queen. Playing only one round of diamonds first, then running the spade nine where West follows with the small one, declarer could have pulled a second round of trumps and claimed, and been very happy West did not have the bare trump queen. Helgemo told me he was perfectly aware of that line, but chose to play the diamond king first so he did not have to commit himself to the 3-0 break in trumps at trick two. Playing the diamond king first allowed declarer to see West's card before committing himself. If West followed with the jack or queen, there was a greater chance that East still could have eight diamonds, but holding a much weaker suit-one which would not be as tempting to bid. But if West followed with a small card, that would give East – assuming West has the 1=5=1=6 distribution – an eight-card suit headed by the queen-jack. If West had followed to the diamond king with, for example, the diamond queen, Helgemo could have changed his mind and played for the 2-1 trump break as all we other normal human beings would have done. So the hand is a combination of research, table feel, and an amazing technique that makes the play unusual.

Helgemo said to me: 'I played the percentages.' Wow! Well, he is right in a way. But if we awe-struck spectators say: 'He JUST played the percentages', it would be the biggest understatement for years, maybe even for decades.

Unsurprisingly, this deal won Helgemo (and journalist GeO Tislevoll) the accolade of Rose Cliff Declarer Play of the Year 2011.

According to Truscott, *Adventures in Cardplay* 'opened new frontiers' in defence as well as declarer play, and 'broke new ground in many technical areas and is still considered the most advanced book on the play of the cards.'

An American survey of bridge experts in 2007 ranked it third on a list of their all-time favourites, nearly thirty years after its publication.

Ottlik's awards included the József Attila Prize (1981) the Kossuth Prize for Literature (1985) and Righteous Among the Nations (1998).

His novel 'A School at the Frontier' was translated into many languages.