

36th

NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

OPEN TEAMS | WOMEN'S TEAMS

Welcome to our Nordic friends



June 7-9, 2019 | Kristiansand

36th

NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

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KRISTIANSAND

Kristiansand is the proud host of the 2019 Nordic Bridge Championships.

The city has a population of 60 000, if counting the nearby areas, it is 90 000. Kristiansand was founded in 1641 by king Christian IV. As you might discover the streets of Kristiansand lies perfectly as a square, all was done as the king ordered!

His intentions were to build a city in the strategic location close to Denmark that could defend and receive goods brought to the country by boats. You can visit the fortress down by the seaside, it is from 1672!

Kristiansand nowadays is the most attractive location for summer holiday in Norway. The zoo is a popular site for families attracting more than 20 000 visitors on a warm summer day.

The oil and gas industry have been the dominating industry during the last 30 years and has been the main force of the growth in the region.

If we look closer in Kristiansand you will find a large ice-cream factory, a world-leading producer of high-quality nickel and the largest shopping mall in Norway.

As you see from the picture Kristiansand is a great place to take a bath. Try the city beach or go for a walk in the recreation area named Baneheia. You will find lakes and well-established areas for relaxing in the sun.

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WELCOME MESSAGE

KARI-ANNE OPSAL

President Norwegian Bridgefederation

Dear Nordic neighbors and friends!

The Nordic countries have much in common; historical, cultural and social life. In European and world context, we are small. The value of collaborating is obvious, also in the bridge world. Those before us have seen and understood this. Ever since the end of World War II, Nordic bridge championships have been arranged.



The world has come closer. We travel and are tested in many other arenas than the Nordic one. Due to this, one can ask whether the Nordic championship has lost much of its status and importance. I do not think so.

Many of the best bridges players in the world come from the Nordic countries. If you are the best in the Nordic countries, you have good chances to do well in both the European and the world Championships. A Nordic championship title should therefore still be valued. Not to mention that some countries are much more fun to beat than others, whether in bridge, football or Eurovision (read: Sweden).

During the championship, the NBU (the Nordic bridge union) also meets

- to learn from each other
- to share good ideas and solutions
- To collaborate on issues, it is important to get a breakthrough in EBL or WBF.

An example of our success is the election of Jan Kamras as head of the EBL. Under Jan's leadership one is well underway to reform the work in the EBL. Nordic values in the form of equal treatment, increased openness and transparency are introduced. Unnecessary costs for administration and representation are cut. In the long run this will lessen some of the gap that has existed between the players and the organizers. It makes EBL stronger.

Jan will visit the championship. Catch him or other Nordic leaders for a chat during a break. Tell us what we do well and what we can do better.

....

Dear Nordic neighbors. A friendly neighborhood needs to be cared for to stay alive, regularly but not too often. That's what we do when we meet. We compete, collaborate and have good conversations.

My gratitude's to Kristiansand BK who has taken on the task of hosting the championship.

Welcome to Norway and the city of Kristiansand.

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TEAM ROSTERS

OPEN TEAMS

Iceland	Sweden	Faroe Island	Denmark	Finland	Norway
Adelsteinn Jørgensen	Krister Ahlesved	Danjal Pauli Mohr	Kasper Konow	Vesa Fagerlund	Boye Brogeland
Bjarni Einarsson	Niklas Warne	Arni Matras Dam	Michael Askgaard	Arttu Karhulahti	Espen Lindqvist
Jon Baldursson	Thomas Karlsson	Jakup Suni Hjaltalin	Mikkel Larsen	Kauko Koistinen	Ulf Tundal
Sigurbjörn Haraldsson	Alexander Sandin	Dia Jacobsen	Seijr Jensen	Clas Nyberg	Nils Kvangraven
Gunnlaugur Sævarsson	Tommy Bergdahl	Bogi Simonsen		Mika Salomaa	
Kristian M Gunnarsson	Lasse Andersson	Arne Mikkelsen		Pekka Vitasalo	
<i>Jafet Olafsson</i>	<i>PG Eliassen</i>	<i>Øssur Winthereig</i>		<i>Pekka Vitasalo</i>	<i>Christian Vennerød</i>



Open team winners 2017 - Sweden

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WOMEN'S TEAMS

Iceland	Sweden	Norway	Denmark	Finland	Norway II
Anna Ivarsdóttir	Kathrine Bertheau	Marianne Harding	Helle Rasmussen	Hulda Ahonen	Liv Marit Grude
Gudrun Öskarsdóttir	Jessica Larsson	Ann Karin Fuglestad	Lone Bilde	Pia Erkkilä	Bodil Øigarden
Anna Nielsen	Emma Övelius	Gunn Tove Vist	Signe Buus Thomsen	Raija Tuomi	Maja Rom Anjer
Helga Sturlausdóttir	Sanna Clementsson	Torild Heskje	Bjørg Houmøller	Ilona Vänni	Stine Holmøy
<i>Ólöf Torsteinsdóttir</i>					
<i>Ólöf Torsteinsdóttir</i>	<i>Kenneth Borin</i>	<i>Anne-Lill Hellemann</i>	<i>Bo Bilde</i>	<i>Pia Erkkilä</i>	<i>Jon-Egil Furunes</i>



Women's Team winners 2017 - Denmark

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ROUND ROBIN – DRAW

Each team will play each other twice. The first 5 rounds are planned by draw and will be played as listed here. The next 5 rounds will be planned after the first half of round robin based on the standings.

One match per round on **Vugraph** is marked with 

OPEN TEAMS

Round	Table	Team 1	Team 2
1	1	Iceland	Denmark
1	2	Sweden	Norway
1	3	Faroe Island	Finland
2	1	Sweden	Iceland
2	2	Denmark	Faroe Island
2	3	Norway	Finland
3	1	Iceland	Norway
3	2	Sweden	Faroe Island
3	3	Finland	Denmark
4	1	Norway	Faroe Island
4	2	Sweden	Denmark
4	3	Finland	Iceland
5	1	Faroe Island	Iceland
5	2	Denmark	Norway
5	3	Sweden	Finland

WOMEN'S TEAMS

Round	Table	Team 1	Team 2
1	1	Norway	Norway 2
1	2	Iceland	Denmark
1	3	Sweden	Finland
2	1	Iceland	Norway
2	2	Norway 2	Sweden
2	3	Denmark	Finland
3	1	Norway	Denmark
3	2	Iceland	Sweden
3	3	Finland	Norway 2
4	1	Denmark	Sweden
4	2	Iceland	Norway 2
4	3	Finland	Norway
5	1	Sweden	Norway
5	2	Norway 2	Denmark
5	3	Iceland	Finland

From the second draw (round 6-10) the organizers will publish the vugraph per round based on the overall standings

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LET'S LOOK BACK

We have been looking at some great hands from previous championships. Let's get inspired of the master play made by our friends, teammates and competitors. We hope you will bring us some new great coups, squeeze and endplay to write about from the 2019 edition of the Nordic Bridge Championship.

2011 | WRANG CRISS-CROSSING

Fredric Wrang won silver medal at the 2011 Nordic Bridge Championship on the Swedish Open Team. He also won the prize for best declarer play. Let's look on the board where Fredric performed as a maestro.

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



Fredric got a difficult journey in the east seat when playing 5♦ on a trump lead.

The diamond lead went to dummy's jack. Next followed a spade to the jack and queen. The defense now cashed the ace of clubs and continued with a low club (South could have defeated the contract by returning a heart). Wrang ruffed the club and pulled all his trumps, leaving the following three cards, where North still has to find a discard:

<p>♠ 10 9 ♥ A ♦ - ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ K 6 ♥ K 8 ♦ - ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ A ♥ Q J ♦ - ♣ -</p>	
	<p>♠ 4 ♥ 10 6 ♦ - ♣ -</p>		

– I knew that North was marked with five clubs, one diamond and 4-3 in the majors. I just had to pay attention to what North discarded with four cards left.

North finally discarded a low heart and Fredric made no mistake when he played a heart. The king fell under the ace and Fredric had the entry back to his hand holding the ace of spades making his 11th trick on the queen of hearts.

A beautiful criss-cross squeeze truly worthy the title **Best Declarer play 2011**.

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2007 | KIEMA ON SQUEEZE

Written by Geo Tislevoll in the 2007 Championship bulletin

♠ 8 7
 ♥ Q J 6 4 3
 ♦ K 4 2
 ♣ 8 5 4

 ♠ A 9 5
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A K Q J 7 3 2

 ♠ K J 10 2
 ♥ A K 10 9 2
 ♦ A J 10 7
 ♣ -

 ♠ Q 6 4 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q 9 8 6 3
 ♣ 10 9 6

7 clubs is a bit better contract than 7NT. Grand slam in clubs was the contract in the Open room, making 13. Kiema who played in 7NT got a club lead. He continued clubs till this position was reached

♠ 8 7
 ♥ Q J 6
 ♦ K 4 2
 ♣ -

 ♠ A 9 5
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 3 2

 ♠ K J 2
 ♥ A K 10
 ♦ A J
 ♣ -

 ♠ Q 6 4 3
 ♥ 8
 ♦ Q 9 8
 ♣ -

Kiema

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
7 NT	Pass	Pass	pass

Now Kiema found himself squeezing dummy, and that's not the best idea. Much better to squeeze the opponents! Therefore, he left clubs for a while, and cashed the two heart honors. When the heart split

appeared, he had no problems any more. The only thing needed now was that East had at least four spades from start, or that he held the spade queen. Kiema played king of spades and a spade to the ace, no finesse. No finesse needed! A text-book double squeeze occurred when declarer cashed his clubs.

Before the last club this was the situation

♠ -
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K 4
 ♣ -

 ♠ 9
 ♥ -
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 3

 ♠ -
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A J
 ♣ -

 ♠ Q
 ♥ -
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ -

When the club 3 is played North must keep his heart and South the spade queen. Can anyone keep more than one diamond? Answer: No one!

Winning 7NT meant only 2 imps to Finland even though some pairs in the other matches stopped in game, not even getting to a small slam!

On the next board Finland went two down doubled in 4 spades, and Sweden escaped with minus 50 in 4 spades undoubled at the other table. 6 imps to Sweden, and at this moment the match was even, 33-33!

A nice slam in board 19 was bid and won at both tables, though some pairs didn't bid it in the other matches, and a few players went down in slam.

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1964 | YEAR OF SWEDEN

Tore Sandgren was the big captain in the history of the Swedish Open Team. Back in 1964 the Swedish teams won both Open and Women's team event. Sandgren wrote about his thoughts in BridgeTidningen.

He could tell that the Swedish Teams had celebrated their victory and when he was supposed to leave the hotel, they presented him a note of food and beer ordered by the team. Nobody admitted being responsible, he had to pay to avoid a scandal. He hoped the Swedish federation would accept to pay the bill.

Let's take a look at some entertaining boards from the '64 event;

Dealer North	♠ 9 7 6			
All Vul	♥ 9 8 2			
	♦ 10 9 8 7 5			
	♣ 8 6			
♠ Q 5 4		♠ J 8 3 2		
♥ K Q 7 5 4		♥ A J 10 3		
♦ A 4		♦ K Q 3 2		
♣ Q 5 2		♣ 3		
	♠ A K 10			
	♥ 6			
	♦ J 6			
	♣ A K J 10 9 7 4			
West	North	East	South	
	Pass	1 ♥	3 NT	
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	

Koski-Kallio and Tuominen bid and made 4♥ - the expected score EW.

Sweden had different views about how to bid the hand in the closed room.

East opened 1♠!

South jumped to 3♣, west had a minor fall-out when he decided to double as penalty, so the contract became 3♣ x.

A spade was led to the jack won by the ace.

South played the 4 of clubs and west again was in the spotlight. He decided to play low, the 8 in dummy won the trick.

That was just what declarer had hoped for, he made his contract bringing 15 imps to Finland.

1968 was the last championship held in a "even" year. The federations decided to change to odd numbers to avoid the same year's the Bridge Olympiad.

The '68 championships were held in Gothenburg. The federations had decided a "budget" event. The Open room was played in the Hotel hall at the second floor. The players had to pay for the prize giving dinner themselves.

Jan Wohlin was named the best player and Bert Sjødin was given a prize as the nicest player of the tournament.

Source: Norsk Bridge 1968-6

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The Swedish women's team Lindholm-Järper needed their share of luck and then some when they bid slam on this board.

Dealer: South	♠ K Q 9 4		
Vul: All	♥ J 8 6		
	♦ 7 6		
	♣ K 8 4 2		
♠ A 8 5		♠ 10 7 3 2	
♥ Q 10 3		♥ 9 7 5 4 2	
♦ 10 9 3 2		♦ J 4	
♣ 9 7 5		♣ Q J	
	♠ J 6		
	♥ A K		
	♦ A K Q 8 5		
	♣ A 10 6 3		

The Swedish women's team had no fear in the bidding. Their sequence looked like this;

West	North	East	South
			1 ♣
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The clubs were played correctly, declarer made her contract without any difficulties.

From the Norway-Denmark match we found this funny board.

The Norwegians bid and made 3 NT as east-west, the Danish dynamite had other plans when bid up to **4♥ on a 3-2 fit**. It does not sound like the best spot, but the Danish declarer made his contract for a 1 imp loss.

West	North	East	South
	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
2 NT	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

A Diamond was led won by the ace. Next came a trump taken by the king. Declarer also took his other heart followed by a club to the king,

the queen of hearts and club to the jack.

Dealer West	♠ 8 5		
Vul: none	♥ J 10 7		
	♦ Q J 7 6 5 2		
	♣ 6 4		
♠ K J 3		♠ A 9 7 6	
♥ A K		♥ Q 3 2	
♦ K 10		♦ 9 8 4 3	
♣ A J 8 7 3 2		♣ K 10	
	♠ Q 10 4 2		
	♥ 9 8 6 5 4		
	♦ A		
	♣ Q 9 5		

Declarer continued in clubs, south could ruff but declarer had enough entries in spades and diamonds making his contract only losing a diamond and two hearts!

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2007 | THE YEAR OF CHANGE

Finland won their first open title and the Norwegian Woman team won their third after a 21-year waiting. The Lillehammer Nordic Bridge Championship in 2007 sure shake the throne of Nordic Bridge.

Lillehammer also gave birth to a new star, Gunn Tove Vist made her first performance on the Norwegian Woman team. The gold in '07 was a kickstart for Gunn Tove, up till now she can look back being a European champion, Nordic champion and multiple national championships. Yet being in her thirties the Norwegians hope she still will bring home many trophies.

Dealer: North	♠ 6		
Vul: NS	♥ 10 9 7 5 3		
	♦ 8 7 2		
	♣ Q 9 8 4		
♠ A		♠ J 10 9 8 4 3	
♥ K Q J 6 2		♥ A 4	
♦ A K Q J		♦ 9 5	
♣ J 5 2		♣ 10 6 3	
	♠ K Q 7 5 2		
	♥ 8		
	♦ 10 6 4 3		
	♣ A K 7		

2007 | BIG NUMBERS

The hand didn't seem like a monster when it came up, but shortness of partnership understanding gave us some high numbers.

Gunn Tove Vist – Siv Thoresen started to double EW against 4♠. The road ended at 5♥ x. The Norwegians settled for +300.

A truly bad result for EW, but it was just about to get worse.

The Closed room gave the cards another view, the bidding went as this



Ann Karin Fuglestad and Gunn Tove Vist; Happy winners of the Nordic Bridge Championship 2007

	Brogeland	Svendsen		
	West	North	East	South
		Pass	2♦ (1)	2♠
Dbl		Rdbl	Pass	Pass
Pass				

1) 2♦ = Multi

It is not your proudest moment when you play on the national team and forget the agreements facing a Multi 2♦.

The Norwegians Tonje Brogeland - Tonje Svendsen had no problem handling the interference. NS on the other hand was not communication on the same wave. South got a tough ride, she settled for -2200.

The net amount of 2500 gave the Norwegians 21 imps.

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2015 | ICELAND IN COMMAND

Iceland won their fifth title, the second in a row winning the Open Teams of 2015. Denmark won the women team, an impressive strike winning 3 titles in a row. The 2015 edition also gave the Faroe island their first medal winning the silver in the Open team.

Dealer: South
Vul: E-W

West:

♠ 10 7 6 5 4 3
♥ J 10
♦ 8 3 2
♣ 8 3

West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

This hand looks innocent, Let's try to figure out the best lead. Do you try to find partner in hearts, or do you believe in the spade suit?

You are west and need to find the best lead. The bidding was the same at both tables in the match between Norway and Iceland, but it scored a 12-imp difference.

1NT = 14-16, the rest is for you to figure out.

What is your choice?

It is so typical to see a team playing against the wall, nothing works. The team on the roll just do what is natural and it works perfectly.

The Norwegian west led the jack of hearts, the Iceman led a spade. Not to wonder what was right, the hand looked like this

Dealer: South
Vul: E-W

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

On a spade lead the contract was doomed, it went 4 down!

On a heart lead declarer played low, east scoring the king. If he had turned the QUEEN of spades the

contract would have gone down, but who find that defense?

The Norwegian continued a heart, declarer played clubs and made his contract with ease.

Maybe declarer should have used the ace of hearts in the first trick, but that was not much of an option was it?



Island Open – winners of Nordics 2013

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Iceland won the Open teams in 2015



Faroe island – Silver Open teams in 2015



Denmark – Winners of Women teams in 2015

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HISTORY OF THE TOURNAMENT

STATISTICS



The Nordic Bridge Union has given the Nordic federations a perfect arena to build Nordic friendship.

Back in the early days of bridge the big cities held internal competitions like Oslo vs Stockholm. These tournaments had a lot of prestige, to win such a competition was among the best of results a bridge player could achieve.

The first Nordic Bridge Championships dates to 1946. The venue was Oslo and the winners were Norway in the Open class, Sweden in the Women.

Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland have been represented in all 35 previous championships in the open class. Denmark is the only country who has been represented at every championship in the Women's team event.

All countries except the Faroe Island have won gold medal, both in Open and Women. Norway is the current leader in the Open class holding 14 trophies, but Sweden are close with 13. In the Woman Sweden has 17 trophies with Denmark second holding 10.

Since the first championship in 1946 about 865 players have been participating on each team. 347 of these players have attended 2 or more championships.

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Women</u>
Finland	106	67
Norway	117	63
Sweden	119	69
Denmark	98	58
Iceland	59	56
Faroe Island	28	15
Total	527	328



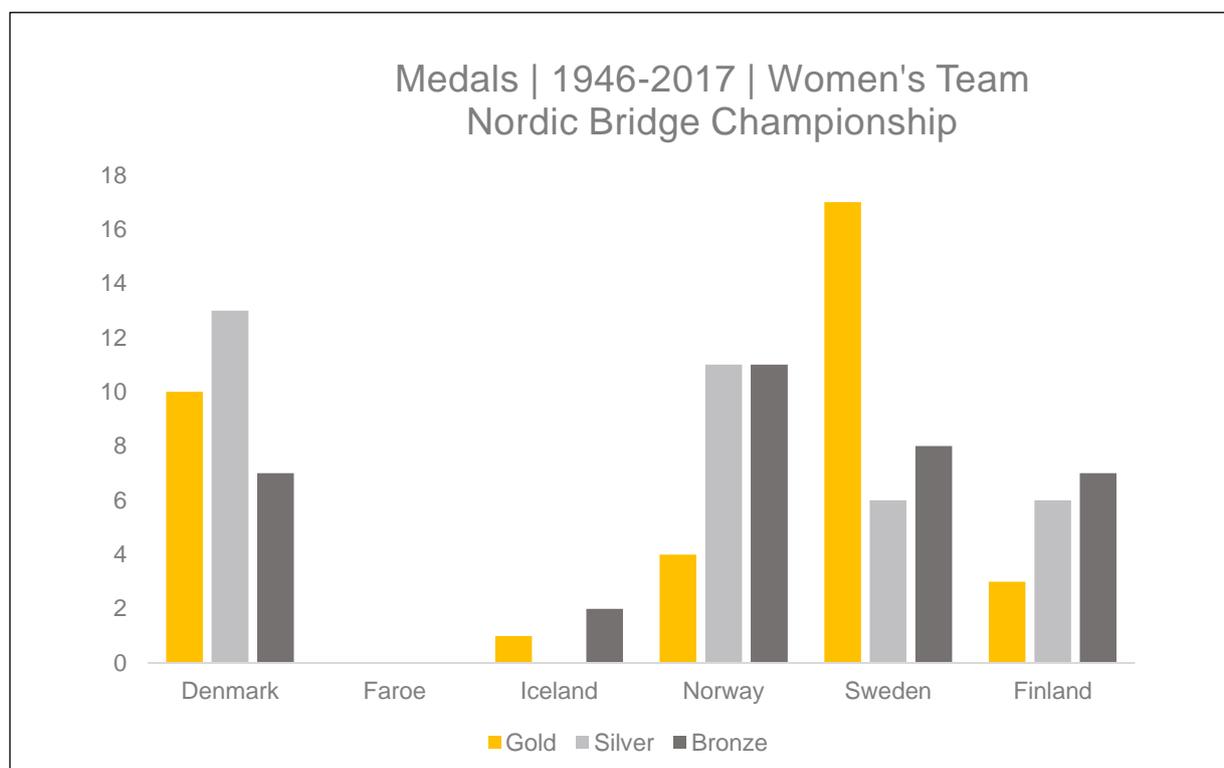
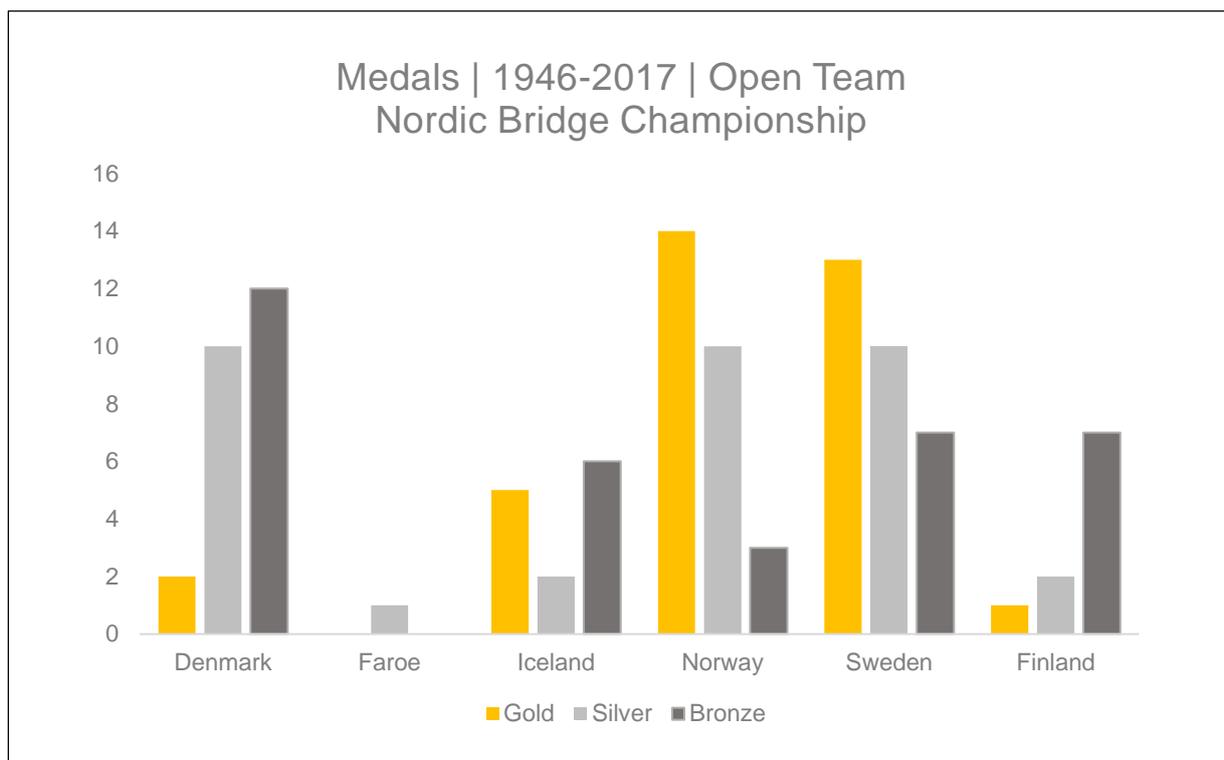
Finland Women's team 1998: Mirja Mæntylæ, Kate Runeberg, Pirkko Savolainen, Birgit Bærlund, Harry Wikholm, Sari Kulmala and Rirva Niemistö

Pirkko Savolainen is the female player with most events as she has attended 10 events in the period from 1978 till 2000.

In Open Teams Jon Baldursson currently attend his 12th championship .

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INTERVIEW

KAUKO KOISTINEN – FINLAND

1. Can you tell us a few private facts; family, age, work, residence?

Married. 58 years old. Running a bridge club (directing, teaching and selling coffee & beer at the club), editor of Finnish Bridge Magazine. Living and working in Helsinki.

2. Give us a short summary of your victories at the table

Winning the Nordic Championships 2007. Finnish team championship 23 times and pairs 13 times.

3. What are your thoughts about the Nordic Championships, do you think it is an important event?

The Nordic Championships is surely one of my favorite tournaments. The field is very strong and the atmosphere very friendly. An event where you can play high level bridge against old and new friends!

4. Your best memory from your bridge career so far?

My best bridge memory is from Lillehammer 2007. Winning the Nordics with a big margin playing only four-handed. Also winning the first Finnish team championships 1982, being only 21 years old, was a moment to remember.

5. I know you have enjoyed playing, and maybe developing? the magic diamond system. Is it still a competitive system and what are the advantages compared to strong club?

Nowadays I play Magic Diamond only once a year, with Clas Nyberg in our pairs' finals. It's a good system at pairs in an average field. The aggressive openings bring lots of good scores, and quite seldom we are paying out big numbers. At teams and specially against strong field I would recommend this system only to my opponents! With my regular partner Vesa Fagerlund we play just basic 2/1.

6. What Nordic opponent have made the strongest impression at the table?

All of them. If you are not doing your best, you are sure to lose.

7. Future goals as a bridge player?

My future plan is to give up my bridge club and play and travel more. Hopefully we can find sponsors to continue the American Nationals. Las Vegas in July will be 14th time in a row for me and Vesa to play these events.



Kauko looking for tricks!

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8. Compose a dream team of yours, pick any player from the OTHER Nordic countries.

Tough question! Maybe I should have Julius Sigurjonsson as a partner. We have been playing some tournaments together with good results. As the teammates I could choose Rimstedt brothers. At two Nationals I had them in the same team. It happened quite often that I was expecting to lose a match, but the other table saved the day.

9. Any advice to a young, promising bridge player aiming to become a champion?

Young promising players too often try to learn fancy and difficult conventions. That's not the way to improve your game. Counting and more counting is a must to become a competent player. When I was still young and promising player, I had a bad habit that after a bad board I tried to "get it back" in the next one. Most often the result was a second bad board. Now when I'm older and not so promising anymore, I've learned my lesson. After a bad board just stay calm and concentrate for the next one. Occasional bad decisions are just part of the game and you shouldn't get too emotional about these.

Thanks to Kauko for letting us know more about him. He for sure is among our true giants holding 36 national championships! He has played 8 Nordic championships winning 1 gold and 3 bronze.



Finland – Gold 2007

Osmo Kiema, Clas Nyberg, Kauko Koistinen and Jouni Juuri-Oja

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JACOB DUSCHEK (DK)– TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Jacob is always the silent TD. You never see him, but you know he is in charge and any issue will be handled in the best way.

I was curious, who is Jacob and does he know how to play a slam?

1. Can you tell us a few private facts; family, age, work, residence?

I grew up in a small town on the island of Funen. I moved to Copenhagen to study computer science when I was 19 and have lived there since then. I am 51 now, divorced four years ago, and have three children – a son who will turn 19 in July, and twin daughters who turned 16 just before this tournament, on 6 June. I always encouraged my children to be independent, and maybe that is why neither of them shares my interest in bridge; they do not even share a common hobby between them and will take entirely different educational paths.



Jacob as we know him, at duty as TD in a championship.

Professionally, I have been working full-time as a software developer for 25 years now. Being a TD is only a hobby for me, although it is something that I take very seriously.

2. Give us a short summary of your achievements as a bridge player

In 2003-05 and 2009-12, I played in a quite successful partnership with Mikkel Larsen. We won the bronze medal in the Danish team championship in 2011 and the silver medal in 2012. It is easy to project what would have happened in 2013 if Mikkel had not decided to resume his partnership with Sejr Andreas Jensen instead.

But to be honest, although we played like a perfect machine we had grown somewhat apart as players. We are still great friends and have an immense mutual respect, so I am happy that Mikkel and Sejr have their debut in the Danish national team at this tournament.

Unfortunately, Mikkel and I never had the opportunity to try our luck in the Danish pairs championships when we were partners, mainly because my family kept me busy.

3. What are your thoughts about the Nordic Championships, do you think it is an important event?

We have to accept that the event is probably ignored outside the Nordic region. But it is a very important event for the Nordic federations because our nations share a lot culturally and historically, and we should build on that within the bridge community too.

Also, it is very important that we can include Finland, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands to avoid them being isolated in the bridge world. The three Scandinavian federations are fairly big and do not face the same kind of problem.

NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

4. Why did you start out as TD?

I started studying the rules seriously when I discovered that the TDs at the One-Eyed Jacks, a very strong bridge club in Copenhagen where I used to play, were quite lazy about their rulings. When I asked the chairman whether he would like me to be the club's TD if I attended some courses first, I expected him to decline my offer politely because I only played in the Third League at the time. But he said, "oh yes, please do, because we really hate doing it ourselves".

5. Does the TDs around the world work together, do a Nordic TD have a voice internationally?

The EBL organizes a course for the best TDs every three years, and this is a great opportunity to establish connections with good TDs from other countries and even EBL Chief TDs and members of the WBF Laws Committee. We often discuss law issues, either via email or in a Google Groups-based forum.

And they definitely listen to Nordic TDs. I often raise questions about law dilemmas, and I have gained respect for that although they find it annoying at times. Henrik Johansson, the Swedish EBL TD, is also well-respected, and surely less annoying.

6. Are there any events you WANT to act as TD (like being the referee at the champions league in football)?

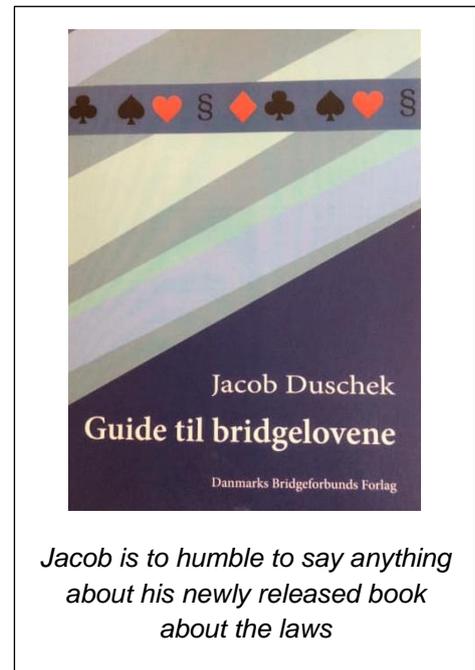
Not really. Obviously, I felt proud the first time I was invited to be a TD at the European Championships, but as soon as I arrived, I realized that the real incentive for me to go is the opportunity to meet old and new friends and discuss the hobby that we share.

Of course there would be some prestige in being invited as a TD for the Bermuda Bowl, but it is not important for me; my schedule is full and I like all the events where I go as a TD – also, I am not fond of travelling outside Europe.

7. Any future goals as a bridge player?

I quit playing four years ago because of motivation issues; the underlying reason was probably that I started spending much more time working as a TD and discussing bridge law issues after I became an EBL TD in 2013.

Winning the two medals with Mikkel exceeded even the wildest dreams that I had when we resumed our partnership in 2009, so it will be hard for me to set new goals for myself if I start playing again.



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NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

8. Compose a dream team of yours, pick any player from the OTHER Nordic countries.

From Norway it has to be Brogeland-Lindkvist and Helgemo-Helness, and to avoid a Scandinavian war I would also select two Swedish pairs, though I am not sure whom – the best players are almost equal. And the best Icelandic pairs are not far behind.

9. Any advice to a young, promising bridge player aiming to become a champion TD

First and foremost, do a lot of homework, discuss rule issues with someone who knows more than yourself and whom you respect, and become a playing TD at your club to get some practical experience.

Then tell your federation that you would like to be a TD at national events. If you are a good player and have a reasonable idea about the laws, they will be happy to make you an assistant TD quite soon because there are not that many TDs available who understand both the game and the rules.

And never stop trying to learn more.

Thank you, Jacob. We are lucky to have people like you around to handle the TD job as well as you do. Good luck in the Nordic 2019, let's hope you be stuck in the TD chair 😊



Team Norway 2005 - Gold



Bronze 2017 - Finland

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KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

MEMORIES



Denmark Woman 1955: Rimor Fraenckel, Lozzie Schaltz, Gurli Skotte, Vibeke Petersen and Otti Damm



Tore Sandgren



Sweden Woman 1968: Front: Werner, Segander, Eriksson.
Back: Mårtensson, Persson, Saabye and Thoresson



Swedish Open team 1986



Norway Open 2009

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Pia, Hulda, Raija and Sue won silver but took the Nordic title in 2005.



Iceland women's team - 2000

NPC ICE + Faroe - 2005



Swedish Women's Team - 1998



Norwegians Per O Grime and Sven Olai Høyland receive the Nordic Trophy in 2005

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Sweden were strong in the 50s and 60s – The winning team in '68



Peter Schaltz | 2005



Norwegian Women's team celebrating the '09 victory

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KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

Friday

14:00 Captains meeting

14:30 16:50 Match 1

17:00 19:20 Match 2

19:20 20:20 Dinner

20:20 22:40 Match 3

Saturday

10:00 12:20 Match 4

12:20 13:20 Lunch

13:20 15:40 Match 5

15:40 16:00 Break

16:00 18:20 Match 6

18:20 19:20 Dinner

19:20 21:40 Match 7

Sunday

10:00 12:20 Match 8

12:20 13:20 Lunch

13:20 15:40 Match 9

15:40 16:00 Break

16:00 18:20 Match 10

19:30 Dinner and prize-giving ceremony

Dress Code:

Smart Casual (blazer, team shirt, jeans etc)

PLAYERS CONTACT ON-SITE

FUNCTION	NAME
Championship Chairman	Nils Kvangraven and Helge Stornes
Head Tournament director	Jacob Duschek (DK)
Tournament Director	Markus Bruno (NO)
Daily Bulletin team	Geo Tislevoll, Harald Gjellestad, Bjørn Fjellstad, Atle Stray and Nils Kvangraven

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NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

THE BULLETIN TIP

OPEN TEAMS – GEO TISLEVOLL

The Open series includes some new names in several of the teams (at least new to me). This makes the outcome hard to predict. Norway and Sweden are number 1 and 2 on the all-time Nordic winner's list (14 and 13 wins, respectively). In the Swedish squad some of the "usual suspects" are missing, none of the pros that have regularly represented the country for the last couple of decades are playing. I will rank Norway's team, consisting of four of the players that won the gold in last year's Europeans, above Sweden.

Can any other nation give the reigning European Champions a good fight for the gold?

Of course.

Iceland is always dangerous. They won the Nordic in 2015 but finished only 4th in 2017. In the 2017 championship in Denmark Norway's performance was even more disappointing, finishing in 5th place. This just shows the field is quite even and it is in many ways anyone's game. Denmark and Finland will always be there fighting for a medal and perhaps Faroe Island can copy their amazing result in 2015 (silver), a performance they did not follow up in 2017, though.

I am not sure if my tip is dictated more by the brain than the heart. While being a New Zealander now, my heart will always be mostly Norwegian. Maybe therefore, this time my tip goes in favour of the host nation to become the Open Nordic Champions.

WOMEN'S TEAMS – NILS KVANGRAVEN

I am impressed by the Nordic national women's teams. These teams hold the highest international level. The teams that win the medals in Nordic could just as well be the same as in the European or World Championships.

Of the 35 previous championships, Sweden has won 17 gold. Impressive, but the last six championships have been won by Norway (07 and 09) and Denmark (11, 13, 15 and 17). Denmark has won 4 in a row!

It is hard to believe that other than these teams will capture the medals in the 2019 edition of the Nordic Championships, but I do not forget the Finnish team. These ladies have won before and have routine, do not be surprised if a medal ends up in the land of the thousand lakes.

Although I have great respect for the Danish ladies and my heart is Norwegian, I have to say that my favourite is Sweden. **Bertheau-Larsson** has for many years been one of the world's strongest pairs. We know **Övelius** as equally talented and now the young, exciting and successful **Sanna Clementsson** enters the team. I think this combination of routine, hunger and future is unbeatable. Nordic championship 2019 will be won by the Swedish ladies.

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NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

KEEP THE SCORE

Keep your own scorecard

OPEN	1	2	3	Σ	4	5	6	7	Σ	8	9	10	Σ
Denmark													
Iceland													
Faroe Island													
Sweden													
Finland													
Norway													

WOMEN'S TEAM	1	2	3	Σ	4	5	6	7	Σ	8	9	10	Σ
Denmark													
Iceland													
Norway II													
Sweden													
Finland													
Norway													

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NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

WHERE DO THEY LIVE



There will be a reward to the person who are able to pin out on the map where the Norwegians live. The award will be handled over during the banquet after the tournament.

Return the map to the editor with all names written on the right spot.