

36th

NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2019 | KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

BULLETIN 2

OPEN TEAMS | WOMEN'S TEAM

Welcome to our Nordic friends



June 7-9, 2019 | Kristiansand

36th

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DENMARK AND SWEDEN IN THE LEAD

Denmark is the only team in the Open series who has managed to win the 3 first matches. Norway and Sweden hold the other medals with average score.

Sweden leads the rally in the women's teams with Denmark chasing close behind. The Norwegian teams need to

TD Markus Bruno are happy with the current situation. All players, captains and visitors have showed great sportsmanship. "THERE ARE NO HAPPENINGS TO REPORT" is the short but informative answer when we ask him for a comment.

There will be more players in the hotel when the Per Ove Schei Memorial heads off on Saturday. 40 pairs will compete during the 2-day event with money prizes not only to the winners. The event offers prizes each day as individual tournaments together with an overall prize.

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STANDINGS

OPEN TEAMS

Nr	VP	Team
1	40,08	Denmark
2	30,78	Norway
3	30,03	Sweden
4	27,99	Faroe Islands
5	26,48	Finland
6	24,64	Iceland

Results

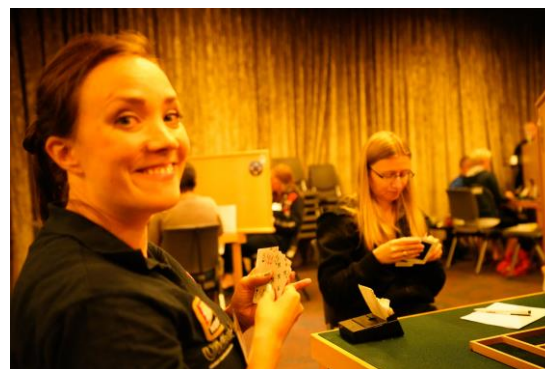
R	Home	Guests	IMP	VP
3	Iceland	Norway	27-23	11,2 8,8
3	Sweden	Faroe Islands	46-50	8,8 11,2
3	Finland	Denmark	24-25	9,69 10,31
2	Sweden	Iceland	28-15	13,52 6,48
2	Denmark	Faroe Islands	42-12	16,73 3,27
2	Norway	Finland	30-31	9,69 10,31
1	Iceland	Denmark	14-25	6,96 13,04
1	Sweden	Norway	29-37	7,71 12,29
1	Faroe Islands	Finland	42-29	13,52 6,48

WOMEN'S TEAMS

Nr	VP	Team
1	46,23	Sweden
2	40,08	Denmark
3	28,32	Finland
4	24,69	Norway
5	23,45	Iceland
6	17,23	Norway

Results

Match	Home	Guests	IMP	VP
3	5 Norway	Denmark	19-38	5,2 14,8
3	3 Iceland	Sweden	18-54	2,41 17,59
3	6 Finland	Norway 2	33-16	14,39 5,61
2	3 Iceland	Norway	45-35	12,8 7,2
2	2 Norway 2	Sweden	okt.36	3,91 16,09
2	4 Denmark	Finland	47-34	13,52 6,48
1	5 Norway	Norway 2	35-27	12,29 7,71
1	3 Iceland	Denmark	34-40	8,24 11,76
1	1 Sweden	Finland	34-25	12,55 7,45



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HAND STORIES

GOOD START FOR FAROE ISLANDS

Writer: GeO Tislevoll

Faroe Islands won the silver in the Nordic 2015 but did not follow up that good result in 2017. This year's championship started well for the smallest nation. I round 1 they met Finland who immediately took the lead in the match. Then came this board:

When Dam found the sacrifice in 5 hearts and Nyberg tried 5 spades, Faroe Islands got a chance for a double-digit swing as their teammates N/S at the other table were left in 4 spades, making.

To bid five-over-five was wrong this time, but the 5H-sacrifice is good. The vulnerable game bonus was too tempting, and South, not unreasonably, bid again. To take "the money" would have given N/S only +300 (5Hx) and Finland would have lost the board by 8 IMPs.

The five-level contract was easily beaten, West gave his partner a diamond ruff for three trump defensive tricks when he got in on his trump Ace. Plus 100 and +620 was worth 12 IMPs for Faroe Islands.

Soon after Finland played 3NT going down when Faroe Islands found 5 diamonds which was cold, another 12 IMPs. Now they had taken over the lead and eventually won the match by 13,52-6,48 VP (13 IMPs).

Dealer: W

Vul: N/S

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

	<i>Dam</i>	<i>Karulathi</i>	<i>Mohr</i>	<i>Nyberg</i>
	West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♠	2♥	3♦
	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
	5♥	Pass	Pass	5♠
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

Lead: ♦7



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A TRUMP SQUEEZE

Writer: Harald Gjellestad

Dealer: N

Vul: None

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

The first board of the first match presented a quiet start. All pairs ended in 4 hearts. At the open series, it was played by North by all 6 pairs, probably after transfer bids. The result was 3 x12 and 3 x 11 tricks. How 5 of 12 pairs got 12 tricks I don't know. East started with spade A twice giving the 12th trick. The others with trump J which should lead to 11 only as far as I can see.

Two women pairs however, played from the south hand, and the lead on both occasions was the 2 of spades and ended up with 11 tricks. In fact, this is the only lead to give a good chance of 12 tricks without wrong defense.

Declarer plays small from dummy, and the only way the defense can set the contract now is to return a diamond. On any other return South can trump squeeze East.

On a trump or club return, declarer wins, cashes a high trump, club K, A and club ruff followed by three more trump tricks.

End position

A trump is played from South, 7 of diamonds from dummy, and East is trapped.

Dealer: N

Vul: None

♠ K 7	♠ A Q
♥ -	♥ -
♦ A K 7	♦ Q 8 2
♣ -	♣ -
♠ -	♠ -
♥ -	♥ 3 2
♦ -	♦ T 6 3
♣ -	♣ -

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A TRICKY NT CONTRACT

Writer: Bjørn Fjellstad

In the encounter between Sweden and Norway the Norwegian declarer finds himself in 3NT against silent opponents. He has shown a balanced 17+ hand and his partner 4 + hearts and 4 spades. The five of hearts is lead and declarer wins his queen as north plays the seven. A small club to dummy reveals the whole distribution of that suit as south discards the spade eight and north covers dummy's ten with the jack. He returns the eight of hearts won in the dummy.

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

This is a complicated deal and prospects of winning nine tricks are not bright. South is likely to have 5-5-3-distribution (he discarded a spade in front of dummy's four card suit and the opponents carding shows an even number of hearts with north). There may be three tricks in diamonds and after quite a long huddle declarer continued with a spade to the ace (north contributed the king) without cashing dummy's remaining top heart. After cashing the queen of spades and two high diamonds, south unblocking the queen, north was offered two diamond tricks, and he was still wide awake and able to stop declarer from reaching dummy so declarer had to accept one down.

Can the contract be made in a legitimate way after the first three tricks? Yes, I think so. You have to cash the third heart trick, and the spotlight falls on north. If he discards a diamond, you play a club from dummy and north has to retain his ace and give you the crucial club trick that you need. You play three rounds of diamonds, establishing your fourth. South can cash his two hearts but is forced to give you two spade tricks which make up your total of nine.

If north discards his small club on trick number four, you discard a diamond, take the spade finesse and will be able to develop two game going club tricks without letting south in to cash his hearts.

So let's say that north discards his small spade at trick four. In that scenario you have to read the hand correctly and play the small club from dummy in order to develop two club tricks that way which make nine altogether with two in spades, two in diamonds and three in hearts.

Bridge is a complicated game. Even if you at trick number three have worked out that your two opponents have the actual distribution, it is still extremely hard to consider all the options and the corresponding correct moves.

I think that even I, your humble referee, might go wrong when I'm not at my best.

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LETS 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.

A CRAZY HAND FROM '73

Reported by Eric Jannersten | Bridgetidningen

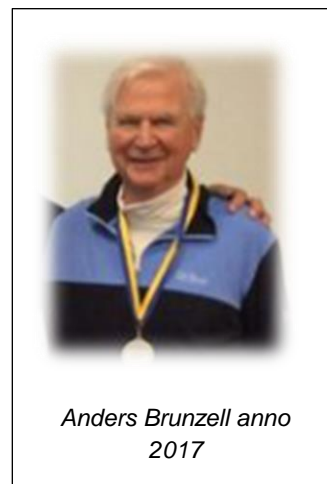
Dealer West	♠-		
East/West vul	♥ A J 6 5		
	♦ 9 8 2		
	♣ A K Q J 7 3		
♠ J 9 8 7 4 3 2		♠ A K Q 10 5	
♥-		♥ 10 9 8 7 2	
♦ A K J 7 3		♦ 6	
♣ 4		♣ 9 5	
	♠ 6		
	♥ K Q 4 3		
	♦ Q 10 5 4		
	♣ 10 8 6 2		

<i>Ekberg</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Brunzell</i>	<i>Norway</i>
West	North	East	South
4 ♠	5 ♣	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

In 1973 Denmark won their first Open title just ahead of Norway and Sweden. Among the many exiting hands we found this one reported in BridgeTidningen.

Ekberg found the right moment to attach opening 4 spar with a poor suit. Brunzell did fear NS could have a good spot in slam so he sacrificed directly, to his surprise this made the opponents silent.

I guess south in white vs red should have bid 7 clubs, maybe he was afraid there could be a grand slam EW?



Anders Brunzell anno 2017

North led the ace of club, but Ekberg ruffed the next ace then claiming his contract for +1430.

In the other room the bidding went differently;

The save in 7 ♣ payed off, the Norwegian only gained 700 bringing alt of imps to Sweden.

The bidding certainly has changed since then, not many of my partners would open west hand in 2 ♠.

<i>Norway</i>	<i>Göthe</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Pyk</i>
West	North	East	South
2 ♠	Dbl	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	5 ♣	5 ♠	6 ♣
6 ♠	7 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

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Back in 1957 the Open title was a thrilling fight between Sweden and Finland. The Swedish team had



Suomi legends: Laakso, Nupponen and the Sorri Brothers (foto: Bridgetidningen)



Sweden vs Finland in the final match (foto: Bridgetidningen)

to beat Finland in the final match and so they bid. Finland had to wait another 50 years (2007) until they won their first Nordic trophy.



Olsen (Norway), Filipsson (Sweden) and Lundby (Denmark) – General Secretary at the time of their respective federations (Foto: Bridgetidningen)

THE 1971 DISCUSSION

This year brought a discussion about how to score the championship. The invitation stated that the juniors were to play together with the open teams in a full round-robin.

Sweden filed a complaint about the scoring format, but the championship was scored as a full round-robin.

Sweden also learned an expensive lesson. They had a tough travel across the sea to Finland. Without any sleep they arrived the playing area 2 hours before start. The strong Swedish team didn't play their best game

and lost all the 3 first matches.

Luck gave the same winner (Norway) anyhow the scores were counted. But the format was changed in the coming events giving the juniors their own tournament.

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HAND STORIES

ROUND 3: NORWAY-ICELAND – A TOUGH BATTLE

Writer: GeO Tislevoll

The Round 3 match between Norway and Iceland started quietly with just a few IMPs exchanged, almost like a football match. Well, Norway had an early 4-0 lead, perhaps not so often when it comes to football playing against Iceland...

On board 10 a big swing finally occurred when both Baldursson and Kvangraven held as North:

E/All

- ♠ K75
- ♥ A875
- ♦ AQ107
- ♣ K8

East was dealer with all vulnerable. They heard 3♥ from their left (East), pass, 4♥ from West. What would you have done?

Kvangraven decided to give up the hand and passed despite holding 18 HCPs, mostly because the length in hearts and fear of hearing 5 clubs from his partner.

Baldursson doubled and was in a way right, their side could win game and had a reasonable slam on. But his action proved to create a lost hand anyway as another choice came later in the bidding.



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This was the full layout:

Lindqvist broke a kind-of golden rule when bidding 5 hearts: "never bid again when having already pre-empted". This time his action made it for Norway, so never argue with success. When South was able to bid again, Baldursson believed slam was on and raised to 6 spades.

Looking only at N/S cards, it looks like 6 spades depends on the club Ace onside, which it was, but when West had a trump trick, the slam went one down, Norway +100. Iceland's 4 heart contract at the other table went three down, Norway +300, and they won the board by 9 IMPs.

On the very next board Iceland struck back and won 11 IMPs when Baldursson-Haraldsson bid to 6 spades which depended on the trumps to be solved for no loser with A-J-10-7-3 opposite K-9-6-5. No problem this time as the Queen of trumps was a singleton. The slam was not reached by Norway, and the match was again about even, Norway up by 2 IMPs.

On board 13, Einarsson and Brogeland held this hand:

♠ K Q 4
♥ Q J
♦ Q 7 6 5 3
♣ A K Q

North was dealer and all vulnerable. North opened 1 diamond and both East and South passed.

What would you have done?

Brogeland passed, Einarsson doubled.

To talk bridge with Boye is always fun and interesting and I rarely question his actions. However, to pass out at the one level with 19 HCPs would not be everyone's choice. West has poor heart and diamond holdings, though.

Dealer: East

Vul:

♠ K Q 6
♥ A 8 7 5
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ K 8

♠ J 9 7 4

♥ 10 6

♦ 6

♣ A Q J 10 9 5

♠ ---

♥ K Q J 4 3 2

♦ J 9 5 4 2

♣ 7 2

♠ A 10 8 5 3 2

♥ 9

♦ K 8 3

♣ 6 4 3

	<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Baldursson</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Haraldsson</i>
	West	North	East	South
			3♥	Pass
4♥		Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass		Pass	5♥	5♠
Pass		6♠	Pass	Pass
Pass				

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The partner held 5 HCPs and as it turned out, 3NT was making. Iceland bid it and the board gave Iceland 10 IMPs.

Norway came back immediately, beating a 4NT contract after a good defence by Kvangraven-Tundal. Norway won 3NT at the other table and the match was close again.

Eventually Iceland won 11,2-8,8 VP win (4 IMPs)



Mikkel and Sejr won first 3 matches and is in front

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PREEMPTING IN THE NORDICS

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

Its all about the bidding. Well it is also a bit of cardplay as well, but these hands were interesting as the preempts gave it all some extra imps on the scorecards

Lets try this hand,

South is dealer, none vulnerable, you hold

♠ J T 9 7 6 4 2

♥ -

♦ K Q 4

♣ K Q 8

South opens 1♦, what is your bid?

I hope you didn't consider to bid too much?

Former Wold Champion, Ulf Tundal, bid 4♠. It certainly could have worked, sadly he hit this layout:

Dealer: South

Vul: None

♠ K Q 8 5

♥ Q J 9

♦ 7 6 3

♣ A 7 3

♠ J T 9 7 6 4 2

♥ -

♦ K Q 4

♣ K Q 8

♠ -

♥ K 7 6 5 3 2

♦ T 2

♣ J T 9 6 4

♠ A 3

♥ A T 8 4

♦ A J 9 8 5

♣ 5 2

Tundal Koistinen Kvangraven Fagerlund

West North East South

4♠ Dbl P 1♦

P P P P

P

Koistinen doubled and Fagerlund passed. 800 was not a good board for the Norwegian as they made 400 at the other table.



It was not the perfect dummy you got at 4♠x Ulf!

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Then Bjarni Einarsson had another exiting preempt.

Lets put you as south holding these cards

Dealer: West

Vul: NS

♠ K Q 2
♥ J 9 7 6 5 3 2
♦ -
♣ Q 8 6

Bjarni to your right, 1st seat white vs red, opens 3♦, do you bid 3♥, 4♥ or pass?

Well, lets say you pass, then LHO bid 4♦, pass, pass. Do you have a bid now?

4♥, dbl, pass?

I hope you did double, the full layout was like this:

Dealer: West

Vul: NS

♠ J 8 3
♥ A
♦ Q J 8 7 6 2
♣ 10 7 4

♠ K Q 2
♥ J 9 7 6 5 3 2
♦ -
♣ Q 8 6

♠ 9 7 6 5
♥ K T
♦ A 5
♣ K 9 5 3 2

♠ A T 4
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K T 9 4 3
♣ A J

I bid 4♥ and played there making 6 after crushing AK of trump.

A double would have brought Bjarni a bit of a headache, most like – 5 going 1100!

Einarsson Kvangraven Jørgensen Tundal

West	North	East	South
3 ♦	P	4 ♦	P
P	4 ♥	P	P
P			

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ENJOY KRISTIANSAND DURING YOUR STAY

Kristiansand is a proud city. If you find time to go for a walk, try these visit these places

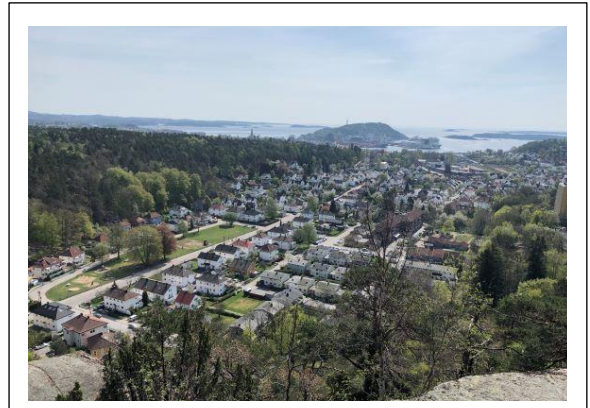
RAVNHEIA

Distance from the Hotel: 2000 meters, 25 min walk

Ravndalen is just like a oasis in the middle of the city.

A big park is surrounded by hills giving it a signature atmosphere. The café Generalen offers the best hamburger in town, or ice-cream from Kristiansand.

If you want a view climb the steps and send a selfie from the top with the town in the background.

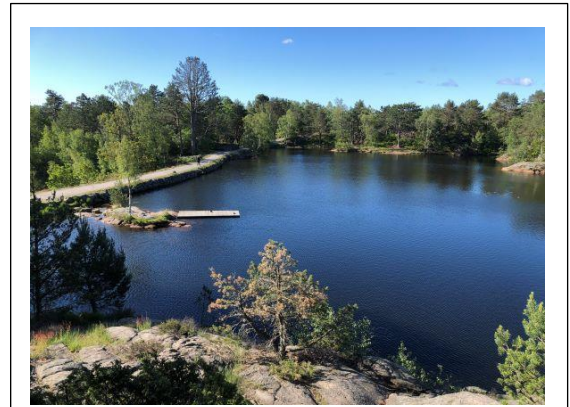


BANEHEIA

Distance from the hotel: 1500 meters, 20 min walk

Baneheia is the most popular recreation area surrounding the city center. The citizens go for a walk or to take a bath in the lakes.

There is a lot of hiking trails where you can walk for hours, but just walk the path around the water and you will come back to the bridgetable with a lot of energy.



THE OLD FIREPOST

Distance from the Hotel: 950 meters, 13 min walk

Here is where the firemen held watch over the city in the old days. Communicating with fire, flag or canon they kept the city safe from dangerous fire.

A selfie with the city in the background or sitting on the canon, it sure will be a great memory from your stay in Kristiansand.



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CHRISTIANSHOLM FORTRESS

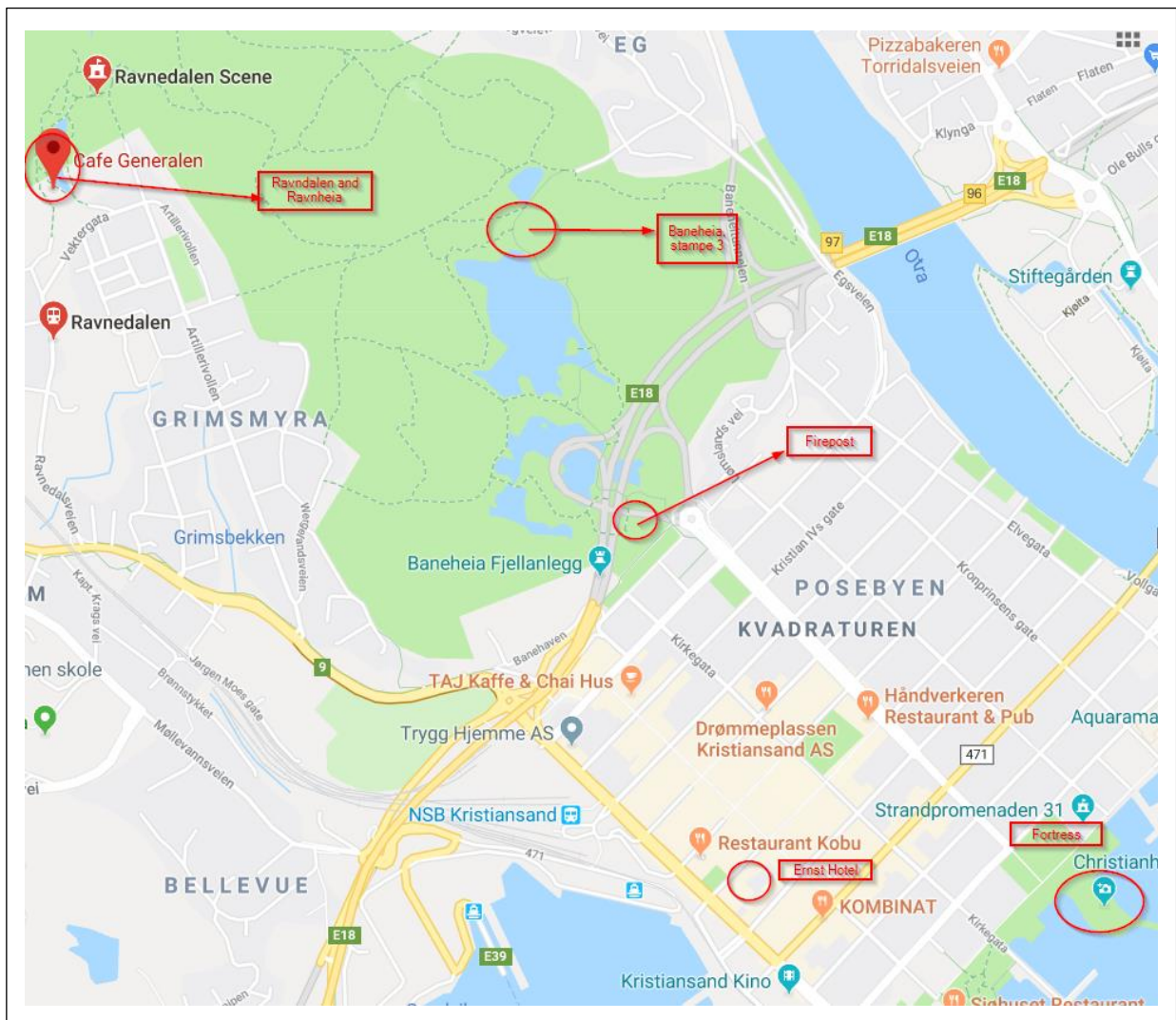
Distance from the Hotel: 500 meters, 7 min walk

The Fortress was built in 1672 and is placed right in the middle of the town down by the sea.

Nowadays it can be rented to host happenings. Go for a walk on the beach promenade where you can enjoy the fortress, the beach and visit the fishers' market.



MAP – PLACES TO VISIT



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INTERVIEW WITH A CHAMPION

BOGI SIMONSEN – FAROE ISLAND

Bogi is the most known Faroe bridge player to most of us. He has been playing the Nordic Championships since the 90s and we all remember the silver back in 2015. Bogi found some time before the tournament and we hit him with a few questions.



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

I am 45 years old. I live in Tórshavn with my 95 kg english mastiff named "Zia". I am often asked if Zia is a girl - what have you never heard about Zia?

2. Give us a short summary of your victories at the table, what is your best memory so far?

This will be my 11th NC in open class I have also played in 3 junior NC.

My best result was when we won silver in 2015 when the NC where held in Tórshavn. This is a result we are proud of back home and a lot of praise has to go to Jacob Røn our amazing coach at the time.

3. Do you have a fun story to tell us from the NC?

It was in Tórshavn in 2003 where I had a very funny board against Geir Helgemo. It was the last board of the tournament. I was in third position and opened the bidding with 1s. I had xx in spades and KJxxxxx in hearts, Helgemo and his pd had a 5-4 fit in spades but ended up playing 3NT. We took the first 8 tricks, 7 in hearts and a minor king. Our mates played 4sp with 11 tricks...

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

In my opinion the Nordic Championships "NC" are very important for us they give us a feeling and sense of belonging. They have given me some lasting friendships across borders in our small part of the world. This is maybe more important for us in the faroes. We held our breath back in 2001/02 where the future of the tournament was unclear. As I remembered the question was whether the tournament should be held as it always had been according to turn or not. Luckily for us this was solved and the NC where held as pr. usual but skipping a year as it should have been played in 2002 but instead it was played in Tórshavn in 2003.

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

After so many NC I have played against a lot of world-class players and it would be impossible to say who has been the strongest but back in 1996 I played against Jón Baldursson for the first time and I think he is the player that has made the strongest impression on me, This was before I got to know him.....))

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6. Compose a dream-team of yours from the other countries

During all these NC I have played against a lot of world-class players and pairs and if I had to put together a team from these pairs this would be it:

- Jón Baldursson - Guðmunndur Arnarson
- Geir Helgemo - Tor Helness
- Boye Brogeland - Erik Sælsminde

7. Future goals as a bridge player?

My goal is to play some strong open tournaments with players not from the Faroes just to try something new. I was lucky enough to play with Bjarni Einar from Iceland in the first Tórshavn open back in March 2019. A tournament we won but more important than that was that the tournament was a great success.

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

When asked what makes a good bridge player, I often say that you need to play a lot of bridge, study hard and so on. But the most important thing is to play with and against stronger players the yourself.



Heðin Mouritsen og Bogi Simonsen – Won the Faroe Championship in 2013

Thanks to Bogi. I'm sure he still be around for some 10+ more championships.

Those Faroe-players do have a goal Bogi would like to achieve; Winning a Nordic Championship!

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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

PLAYERS CONTACT ON-SITE

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

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THE PER OVE SCHEI MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT



Per Ove Schei was born in 1943 and passed away in 2013. He was an avid bridge player all his grown-up life.

Per Ove lived his life alone, the friends he met at the bridge table became his family. He took great love in his friends and the beauty of the game.

He did not win much bridge trophies, but he became a respected tournament player. He travelled around the region playing in local tournaments, he could also join his friends if they decided to travel away from the region.

Per Ove was always friendly and gave his friends a bed in his apartment when they came to town. He used to be very correct at the table when playing bridge. He was known to stick to the rules, there was never a question about considering a light outcome of a sin, at the table you had to take the penalty given by the TD.

His proudest moment came when he in 1995 served as coach of the Norwegian National team during the European Championships. His friends from Kristiansand; Øystein Jensen, Tom Høiland, Helge and Roald Mæsel were drafted to the team and asked Per Ove to join them as coach. He took the position serious; the Norwegian National team have never had a coach serving the team the way Per Ove did.

He had no close inherits and when he died his will gave all his belongings to a trust with the goal to make sure bridge is available and enjoyable for people in the Kristiansand area. The board of the trust hope to achieve this goal by hosting the Per Ove Schei Memorial Bridge Tournament. This is supposed to be a tournament for players on all levels of the game.

We hope you find joy in the tournament, thank you for helping us keeping the memory of Per Ove and his will alive.



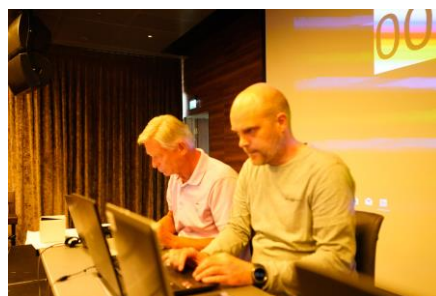
The Norwegian National Team – European Team Championships 1995

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PICTURES FROM THE FIRST DAY



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INTERVIEW WITH A CHAMPION

HELLE RASMUSSEN – DENMARK

Helle is a true champion with the hunger for more. We were lucky and made an interview with Helle right before the championship. Can you win 5 in a row Helle?



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

I am 48 years old; I have 3 children (girl 23, girl 20 and boy 15), and I live with my husband in Odense. I work for a private company called Navteam A/S (professional marine electronics) as an Executive Assistant and HR Manager, and I am also the director of our daughter company in Malaysia.

2. Give us a short summary of your victories at the table, what is your best memory so far?

The best is of course the gold medal from the Open European Championship in Montecatini, 2017. But I also love the Nordic Championships, the bronze from another European championship. (turkey, 2007, I think?) and all the ones from Danish championships.

3. 4 Nordic Championship in a raw Helle, you top the all-time greats together with Baldursson and Wohlin, a Bronze better than your current partner Lone Bilde. I guess you aim for the fifth title. How do you work to improve and stay on top?

*I did not know that. Well, I always play to win, and I love both playing and winning 😊
My partner, Lone Bilde, lives north of Copenhagen, so we don't get to play face-to-face each week. Instead we use the BBO a lot, for partnership bidding, practice matches etc. We do a lot of evaluations, discussions on system, etc. and we try to keep focus on improving and moving forward. I really enjoy playing with her, and luckily, we both believe in the benefits of a long term partnership and we are both willing to invest the time and effort.*

4. The Danish Women's Team have been more successful than the Open Team. Is it just the individuals making the difference, or do you have a good advice your countrymen might listen to?

Hmm, well. I guess that it is a combination of many factors. But first, we don't have many full-time professional players in Denmark, and we unfortunately see a lot of short-term partnerships; if results don't come instantly, many pairs break up instead of working on improving the partnership. These are the two main factors, I think, but of course form of the day, general approach, team spirit etc. are key factors when playing a championship...

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

Yes, I certainly do, and I think that it is a great event as well. There is something special about playing this tournament. It offers great opportunity for "bonding" between the Nordic countries and making friends cross countries. When we meet at other international events, there is always a special tone and joy among the Nordic countries, a special unity that you don't see with other countries, and even though we are competitors, we also cheer for each other.

Another important factor is the opportunity to learn from each other and work together; I believe that we in Denmark can learn a lot from our neighbours. Just look at the major successes from both Norway and Sweden with many young players, very young rising stars etc.

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

This is a difficult one... Strongest impression is not always equal to strongest opponent at the table and vice versa, and with some players you can have "a war" at the table and then go for a drink together afterwards. I would say that all Nordic countries have strong pairs playing excellent bridge, and all are great opponents and many also friends.

7. Future goals as a bridge player?

In short - to win more medals for Denmark!

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

Play all that you can and remember to have fun!



Helle and Lone – Pure Danish dynamite

Helle was just too smart to run into my trap about the Danish Open Team and to wise to tell who she feels has the upper hand against her at the table. A true champion does not reveal her secrets, and a touch of HR experience makes her clever enough to not say anything controversial.

I'm glad I got to know you a bit better Helle, I'm sure you be a though one to beat in the coming years.

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THINGS I SHOULD HAVE DONE

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

There is always a bid, play or defense I felt slipped out of my hands during a tournament. The first day of the Nordic Team Championships had a few of those!

Let's see if you do better than me

I had a choice in the bidding. After a vulnerable weak 2 by my partner I was pretty sure it had to be some sort of play in a game. I could bid Ogust 3♣ asking for weak or strong suit + hcp or I could ask 2 NT for singletons. I chose the latter.

So here we are, playing in a game with slim chances. West led the king of hearts, east playing the 4.

Do you have a plan?

I had, sadly it was to aim for the award of best played hand. The "easy" route to 9 tricks would be winning the lead, spade to ace then a club finesse. If east holds Kx of clubs I make 1 spade, 1 heart and 7 clubs.

Is that a likely distribution?

I hoped the hearts was 4-2 with Hx, and if the player holding Hx of hearts did hold the ace of diamonds there was a fair chance of making by winning the first trick followed by the ace of clubs and the queen.

Now I would have a chance if clubs were 4-1 with stiff king or 10. It just felt like a better chance than the 13% Kx in clubs.

Well, as you have guessed the cards was not friendly with me, it all looked like this

The defense made no mistakes. East won the king of clubs and returned the jack of heart won by the queen. West turned the jack of spades. it all went wrong for me going down in a vulnerable game I could have made.

Dealer: North
Vul: NS

♠ A Q 9 8 7 5
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ 3

♠ 2
♥ A 9 6
♦ K Q
♣ A Q J 9 7 5 4

	<i>Tundal</i>		<i>Me</i>
West	North	East	South
	2 ♠	P	2 NT
P	3 ♣ (short)	P	3 NT
P	P	P	

Dealer: North
Vul: NS

♠ A Q 9 8 7 5
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ 3

♠ J 3
♥ K Q T
♦ J 8 6 4 2
♣ 8 6 2

♠ K 10 6 4
♥ J 7 4
♦ A T 5 3
♣ K T

♠ 2
♥ A 9 6
♦ K Q
♣ A Q J 9 7 5 4

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STORIES - TALKING WITH THE PLAYERS

I sat down during breakfast and had a chat with some of the players. I hope you believe me; they do talk about other things than bridge!

MAJA ROM ANJER – NORWAY II

Norwegians have become the new green people aiming to save planet earth. Due to this we try out sharing apps and services.



Maja Rom Anjer lives in Oslo with her family. They do have a car and has tried the sharing app Nabobil.

Nabobil is a service where people like you and me can rent the car to our neighbor. It is a smart way of earning money if you have a car you don't need every day.

Maja decided to try it out and rented the car away for 2 days. Here is what Maja told us had happened:

Our car has been available for rent at Nabobil. It went on a roundtrip to Mo i Rana, 2000 kilometers in 2 days! On the way, 3 wheel caps disappeared and 2 (!) Big birds hit the front of the car entering the engine.

Do you want to rent the car? Sorry, we have decided to sell it instead.



If you're looking for a car with a big hole in the front, talk to Maja