

36th

NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2019 | KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

BULLETIN 3

OPEN TEAMS | WOMEN'S TEAMS

Welcome to our Nordic friends



June 7-9, 2019 | Kristiansand

36th

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DENMARK AND FINLAND

Finally, we are heading to the exciting last part of the Nordic Bridge Championship. Teams have measured skills in a double round-robin and the winners can look back at some well-played matches.

Current leaders in the open is the Danish team up with 13 vps after a strong performance.

The Finland Ladies team had a perfect day crushing thru the field, but only 1 VP ahead of the chasing squad.

I bet all teams will give all their best in the final day; it won't be easy to pass them before they cross the finishing line.

At the Per Ove Memorial Tournament, we have had a great day of bridge. Players have enjoyed the tournament showing great sportsmanship.

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STANDINGS AND RESULTS – 7 OF 10 ROUNDS

OPEN TEAMS

NR	VP	Team
1	89,51	Denmark
2	76,21	Iceland
3	74,6	Sweden
4	69,36	Norway
5	57,12	Finland
6	51,2	Faroe Islands

Round	Home	Guest	IMP	VP
7	Iceland	Finland	20-23	9,09 10,91
7	Faroe Islands	Norway	33-53	5,00 15,00
7	Denmark	Sweden	42-49	7,97 12,03
6	Sweden	Faroe Islands	29-17	13,28 6,72
6	Finland	Denmark	15-29	6,25 13,75
6	Norway	Iceland	21-25	8,80 11,20
5	Faroe Islands	Iceland	17-51	2,69 17,31
5	Denmark	Norway	47-19	16,42 3,58
5	Sweden	Finland	43-34	12,55 7,45
4	Norway	Faroe Islands	33-29	11,20 8,80
4	Sweden	Denmark	35-43	6,71 11,29
4	Finland	Iceland	25-40	6,03 13,97

WOMEN'S TEAMS

NR	VP	Team
1	83,22	Finland
2	82,26	Sweden
3	82,01	Denmark
4	65,42	Norway
5	55,33	Iceland
6	51,76	Norway 2

Round	Home	Guest	IMP	VP
7	Denmark	Finland	10-31	4,81 15,19
7	Norway	Iceland	26-47	4,81 15,19
7	Sweden	Norway 2	32-40	7,71 12,29
6	Norway 2	Norway	32-57	4,08 15,92
6	Finland	Sweden	32-18	13,75 6,25
6	Iceland	Denmark	41-52	6,96 13,04
5	Sweden	Norway	21-15	11,76 8,24
5	Norway 2	Denmark	29-46	5,61 14,39
5	Iceland	Finland	okt.47	2,28 17,72
4	Denmark	Sweden	28-29	9,69 10,31
4	Iceland	Norway 2	29-38	7,45 12,55
4	Finland	Norway	25-31	8,24 11,76

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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.

LORENZO RONEBERG

From the Nordic Bridge Championship Bulletin 1998

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

distribution to knowledge. I'm pretty sure Lorenzo had a smile on his face when he continued with a diamond to the king, then a spade to the jack. The king of spades cleared the trumps and he could discard a club on the diamonds.

When a club to the king lost to the ace he smiled even more.

What a play, that would have been enough to win the prize for best played hand in most championships.

Lorenzo played 6 Nordic Bridge team championships in the period 1946-1966. He won a bronze medal in 1953.

The Suomi bridge legend, Lorenzo Runeberg, known as "ruthless Runie", payed the '98 championship a visit to kibitz his daughter who played the ladies event.

He was at the time 82 years old, but still going strong. The bulletin wrote about an interesting declarer play by Lorenzo from the very same year. Let's see how an 82-year-old star handled the cards.

The jack of hearts was led taken by the king. Most of the players in the tournament went down losing a spade and 3 clubs. But Lorenzo looked deeper into the hand. He let the four of spades run at the second trick!

West, winning a surprising trick at the 8 of spades, returned another heart to the ace. A spade to the ace brought the



Lorenzo with his daughter Kate back in 1998

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NORWEGIAN LADIES AND THE DANISH OPEN

The Norwegians attended the ladies' event all the first Championships, it took almost 30 years until the first trophy came when winning the 1973 event.

A fun fact you might already know; among the Norwegian '73 players were Marit Sveaas. Maybe not so known in her days, but today her son, Christen Sveaas, has sponsored the **Marit Sveaas International Bridge Tournament** in memory of his mother.

Another fun fact would be that the Norwegian ladies have had the same run as the Danish Open Team. They both won in 1973 and 1986, later the Norwegian Ladies also won in 2007 and 2009.



Norway has won the ladies event 4 times, 1973, 1986, 2007 and 2009. Team 1986: Gerd Hantveit, Annelise Koppang, Rønnaug Asla and Elin Steiner.

"Lind" to "Blind", and right he was. Lind made an unlucky bid and went -800 putting the Danish team in position before the last board (see box).

When the hand came on Rama the Danish commentator, Sven Novrup, smiled. *It is a luck for us that we have Israelsen as south, this hand is tricky and he is the most careful bidder on the team.*

And right he was, John Israelsen had no interest of bidding a 7-card heart suit. He let the Swedes play 1 NT. At the other room the Swedish south did bid, that was a costly affair going -800 when north pulled to 2♠.

The Danes took their first Nordic Trophy with a mall margin. Rumors have it that they still celebrate the victory in Aalborg.

THE 1973 FINISH

The Open Teams in '73 was a blitz. The Norwegian held the trophy with 2 boards to go. The Danish dynamite scored well against the Swedes gaining them the gold just ahead of the Norwegians.

The Danish rama-operator pulled a practical joke when he changed the name of the Swedish player from

		♠ A K Q 10 9	
		♥ -	
		♦ Q 8 7 4	
		♣ 10 9 8 2	
♠ 6 3 2			♠ J 7 5 4
♥ K Q 8			♥ 10 3 2
♦ A J 10 6 5			♦ K 2
♣ K J			♣ A Q 5 3
		♠ 8	
		♥ A J 9 7 6 5 4	
		♦ 9 3	
		♣ 7 6 4	
	<i>J Hulgaard</i>	<i>Brunzell</i>	<i>L Hulgaard</i> <i>Ekberg</i>
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 ♠	1 NT	2 ♥
Pass	2 ♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

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HAND STORIES

CHOICE OF OPENING BIDS (FROM DAY 1)

Writer: GeO Tislevoll

On the first day of this Nordic Championship West was faced with a choice of what to open on two occasions in the 2nd and 3rd round. Such things depend on system and agreements, of course, and the choice can certainly decide the outcome. Try yourself and consider what you and your favorite partner would have done on these two hands.

Round 1

South is dealer and says pass. Your turn:

♠ A K Q 10 6
♥ 9 2
♦ A 7
♣ A K 8 5

What would be your choice of opening bid?

If you play some strong club system, it is easy, you open 1 club. Those who play "Standard/Natural" will have to choose between 1 spade, 2 clubs or perhaps show the hand as a balanced NT-hand. The hand is maybe too strong for a 20-21 NT, and its shape is also not ideal. On a bad day you might even wrong side a NT contract if partner for example has K-x of hearts.

The popular opening bid was 1 spade. This was the full hand:

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

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In the Open series, all but one E/W-pair found their way to 7NT where it was nothing to the play. None of the three suits that could give extra tricks broke well, but no extra tricks were needed. It was "CLAIM" in trick one, 3-3-4-3= 13 tricks.

In the Ladies series half of the six E/W-pairs failed to bid the grand, usually after West opened 1 spade.

Round 3

Dealer West. None vulnerable.

West was also in this case the player who picked a special hand:

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

What would you open?

Again, the opener would have to select an opening bid and those who play strong club would for sure open 1 club, even without the required 16 HCPs. West has 15 HCPs, but to even talk about HCPs with this kind of hand is simply wrong. West has nine absolute certain tricks and a very good chance to make the tenth, on his own hand. To open 1 spade will rarely go wrong in the way that it goes all pass, but you won't gain much by opening 1 spade. To describe this hand later will be impossible.

At the tables were West's choice was to open 2 clubs, East was probably a tad surprised, holding:

♠ 5 2
♥ Q 9 4
♦ A 8 4
♣ A K Q J 4

In the BBO match Boye Brogeland opened a strong artificial 2 club. North overcalled, and Espen Lindqvist was surely tempted to finish this bidding immediately by bidding 7NT. He started with 3 clubs, though, natural. When South jumped to 5 diamonds it went pass-pass, and I suppose Brogeland pass meant something, probably slam interest(?). When it was Lindqvist's turn next, he had had enough of this and bid 7 NT. On this hand as well, the play took a minimum of time, claim when dummy was tabled, with the two hands having 14 top tricks (actually, 15, as the club suit broke 4-3).

In the Open Series grand slam was reached at every table, all but one (7S) in 7NT.

In the Ladies series there were a few more 7S-contracts, but only one E/W-pair failed to bid grand slam.

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KASPER ON PLAY

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

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

Tundal	Askgaard	Kvangraven	Konow
West	North	East	South
			1 ♣ (16+)
P	2 ♥ (♣+♦)	2 ♠	3 ♦
P	3 ♥ (q)	Dbf	3 ♠(q)
Dbf	4 ♣(q)	P	4 ♦
P	4 ♥ (q)	P	4 NT
P	5 ♣(1/4)	P	6 ♦
P	P	Dbf	P
P	P		

It hurts, but I have to tell you about this board. Round 5 in the open series, Denmark vs Norway. Kasper Konow got this test as declarer after I failed to defend.

A club was led, 3, ruff, 5. Spade came next, it went to the ace.

Kasper next played the ace of diamonds and discovered the distribution.

Kasper ruffed a spade before he pulled the trump. The ace of clubs, club king, club queen and a club ruff.

It all had come down to this position

♠ -		
♥ A T 2		
♦ -		
♣ -		
♠ -	♠ Q	
♥ 7 6 3	♥ K J	
♦ -	♦ -	
♣ -	♣ -	
♠ J		
♥ Q		
♦ 4		
♣ -		

Kasper took his last trump discarding a heart in dummy, what about east?

The only hope was to find west holding the queen of hearts, so I discarded the jack of hearts.

Kasper won the last 2 tricks with the A T in hearts making his slam in the most beautiful way.

Did you see my mistake in defense?

I should have turned the KING OF HEARTS, it breaks the squeeze and would have been a beauty.

I might have to present the award for the best play of the tournament to Kasper instead.



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DENMARK – SWEDEN (OPEN)

Writer: GeO Tislevoll

The leaders from day 1, Denmark, faced Sweden in the morning match. It didn't take long before there was action and already the first board was exciting.

Board 17			
Dealer: North			
Vul: Nil			
		♠ J 6	
		♥ 9 6 4 3	
		♦ 9 6 3	
		♣ 9 8 4 3	
♠ A K 8 4			♠ Q 10 9 3
♥ K Q J			♥ A 7 2
♦ A 7 2			♦ Q 10 8 4
♣ J 10 5			♣ 6 2
		♠ 7 5 2	
		♥ 10 8 5	
		♦ K J 5	
		♣ A K Q 7	
<i>Warne</i>	<i>Jensen</i>	<i>Ahlesved</i>	<i>Larsen</i>
West	North	East	South
			1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: Ace of spades

With the opponents having 25 HCPs combined, it is rarely a good spot to be in 1NT doubled, which was what Denmark's N/S played. However, the defenders weren't able to take +500 which would have ensured a won board even against a possible won game in their direction at the other table. E/W cashed four spades and South discarded a diamond. It seems like they now can take their heart tricks and endplay South for two diamond tricks and eight defensive tricks in total. But a third round of hearts would set up dummy's fourth heart and the seemingly hopeless dummy wasn't so hopeless anyway. The club 9 is an entry! The contract drifted two down, +300 to E/W, still a good result for Sweden.

As E/W at the other table, Denmark bid to 4 spades after South had opened 1 diamond - a marginal game. South started with three rounds of clubs, ruffed by East. It boils down to solving the diamonds for only one loser. The declarer knows almost for sure the King is with South because of his opening bid. What had to be decided was whether North held the Jack of diamonds, or the 9. By playing the Queen or 10, the contract could have been won on a nice diamond play to avoid two diamond losers.

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South must cover a big diamond from East and after winning the Ace, the successful play is low to the 8 (or run the 7). If the Queen from East is covered by the King, the declarer still has a choice in the next round of the suit, finesse the 8, or play North for the diamond Jack. Difficult.

The declarer had to guess very well to make this contract and could easily choose to play for a different layout, for example stripping South of hearts and make an endplay, hoping South had no more than three clubs. And Denmark's declarer went one down, so Sweden won 8 IMPs. Had 4S been won, 4 IMPs would have gone to Denmark instead.

Denmark's Jensen-Larsen bid to a reasonable slam on board 20, if looking only at N/S's cards. When trumps were 5-0 and the side suit also broke badly, the contract went three down, Sweden +300.

Andersson-Bergdahl also found out enough to bid the slam which would have been quite good on a 3-2 trump break. When Askgaard doubled and the contract went four down, Denmark +1100, it was change of leaders in the match as Denmark won 13 IMPs.

Bad breaks were the theme at this stage of the match. Denmark bid to a thin 3NT with 24 HCPs combined, but with no nice layout the contract was doomed and eventually went four down, Sweden +400, normally a good result. Sweden at the other table seemingly had a misunderstanding in the bidding and ended in 4NT. The board gave a push, though, when the Swedish declarer made six tricks, also 400 down.

For a while only a few IMPs were exchanged, mostly in favor of Denmark. Sweden won a game (board 23) when an unlucky lead made life easy for the declarer. At the other table Denmark defended a doubled partscore for one down, 10 IMPs to Sweden.

On board 27 Denmark played partscore at both tables. Konow-Askgaard played 3 hearts which looked difficult. A nothing like perfect defence gave him a chance to win the contract, and he did. When Larsen-Jensen was left to play 2S it was a chance for a double score, but the Danish declarer went one down, still worth 3 IMPs for Denmark to lead the match by 10 IMPs with five more boards to play.

Then came a slam which was difficult to bid, especially for Denmark's E/W who faced a light second-hand opening.

Dealer: East

Vul: Nil

Askgaard
West

Konow
East

♠ ---
♥ K J 6
♦ K Q 6 3
♣ A K Q J 10 3

♠ A 8 6 2
♥ A Q 9 4
♦ 10 4
♣ 5 4 2

When Bergdahl opened 1S light as South, it was not that easy for E/W to reach the excellent 6C-contract.

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Askgaard doubled and Konow made a forcing 2♠ with his maximum passed hand. When West jumped to 4C, East was probably not sure if 4H would be taken as a cuebid or a suggestion to play there (assumptions, their agreements unknown). So, over 4C East bid 4S, and West probably was afraid there were two red suit losers and signed off in 5C.

At the other table E/W was able to bid with no interference after West's strong 1C. A big number of relays later Warne-Ahlesved landed in 6C with good control and wrapped up +920 which was worth 11 IMPs. Sweden had taken over because of this board and several small wins in the later stages of the match.

It was not over, though, with Sweden 8 IMPs up before the last board.

On board 32 Askgaard.Konow reached a good 5C contract which made despite a 3-0 trump break. That 3-0 break was possible to overcome in 5C, but not in 4S on a four-three fit, E/W's contract for Sweden. They had good trumps, xxx opposite AKQx but the contract collapsed, and Jensen-Larsen took it three down for +800, Denmark gained 16 IMPs and the leaders won this exciting match to watch by 8 IMPs.

WE HAVE A FUN STORY FROM A NORDIC CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 80S.

The Swedish TD, Hans-Olof Hallèn was known to be a fair but strict director. A player from the Swedish Open team went to the toilet during the match without giving the TD a notice. Hallèn did not fancy the players being careless with the rules so he gave the Swedish team a 2 VP penalty.

The final score of that year's tournament was Iceland 179, Sweden 178..... So, a Swedish player can say he lost a Nordic championship by going on the loo!

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NORWAY VS. DENMARK WOMAN

Writer: Charles

I have been following the Danish national teams for decades especially the women team. ☺

I told the Danish players that there is a bulletin price for the most interesting hand, and I already have a very exiting hand from the 3rd Round between Denmark and Norway.

<p>6 ♠ A863 S/EW ♥ K1053 ♦ 94 ♣ A94</p>			
♠ 5	♠ JT72		
♥ 87	♥ A962		
♦ JT8532	♦ K		
♣ K875	♣ JT32		
<p> ♠ KQ94 ♥ QJ4 ♦ AQ76 ♣ Q6</p>			
West	North	East	South
Marianne	Helle	Ann Karin	Lone
Harding	Rasmussen	Fuglestad	Bilde
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	pas	2♠
pas	4♠	All Pass	
1NT = 14-16			
2♣ = Stayman			

6, ♣8, ♣9 and ♣10, and East was Stepping Stone to dummy. ♣3 to dummies ♣4!

10 tricks after hard work. The contract was made at all the tables, men I doubt anyone else played like this. ☺



Lead ♦J

for ♦K and ♦A. Declarer played ♠K and ♠A and could have made life easier continuing ♦9 planing to ruff a diamond in dummy, but unfortunately Lone played a third round trump til ♠Q, and now she had to fight very hard for her contract.

♥D was allowed to hold, and Fuglestad gave ♥B some thought, before she took

♥A and ♠B andt followed with ♣J (a small club needed a good guess from South ☺). ♣J was covered by ♣Q, ♣K and taken with ♣A. ♥K lead to this position

♥10 pitching ♦6 from hand caught West in a Gardé Squeeze, as Harding had to let go ♣7. ♦9 to ♦Q and trick 12 was ♣

♠		♠
♥ 10		♥ 9
♦ 9		♦
♣ 94		♣ 1032
♠		♠
♥		♥ 9
♦ 108		♦
♣ 87		♣ 1032
♠		♠
♥		♥
♦ D76		♦
♣ 6		♣

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SWEDEN – DENMARK, THEIR SECOND MEETING

Writer: GeO Tislevoll

When Denmark played Sweden for the second time in the OPEN SERIES, Sweden was hoping for revenge after they were beaten in the first match, after leading the match only to lose 16 IMPs on the last board. Denmark started well in this second match.

Dealer East, N/S vulnerable

North

♠ A 7 6 5 4

♥ J 3

♦ A Q 2

♣ K 9 3

North for Sweden heard his opponent to the left (East) open 1H, South passed and West bid 4H.

Would you consider bidding now? It is for sure a gamble to bid, but it is a bit of a gamble to pass too.

You may be robbed if West is just pre-empting, but the way E/W plays, West's 4H may could be with values, not only weak distributional pre-empt. Andersson chose to double. This was the full lay-out:

Dealer: East

Vul: N/S

♠ A 7 6 5 4

♥ J 3

♦ A Q 2

♣ K 9 3

♠ J 10 9 3

♥ A Q 9 8 6

♦ 6

♣ A 10 8

♠ Q 8

♥ K 7 5 4 2

♦ K 10 8

♣ Q J 7

♠ K 2

♥ 10

♦ J 9 7 5 4 3

♣ 6 5 4 2

Askgaard Andersson Konov Bergdahl

West North East South

1♥ Pass

4♥ Dble Pass 5♦

Dbl Pass Pass Pass

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Doubles of high pre-emptive bids are for most expert pairs more for take-out, or values, rather than for penalties. The player who doubles expects partner to bid with distribution. Bergdahl naturally bid 5D which proved to be a phantom save as 4H E/W can be beaten. Also, 5D doubled did not play well at all, and the Swedish declarer went four down, -800. No disaster if E/W could make vulnerable game, but at the other table Jensen-Larsen indeed beat 4H after a club lead, 13 IMPs to Denmark.

Mid-way in the match a lead problem occurred:

♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ Q 7
♦ A Q 9 4
♣ A 10 9

Where Askgaard was West against South's 4H contract, he knew South had an opening and a spade suit while North had a long heart suit. South became declarer after a transfer response. The Dane couldn't expect much from his partner and reasonably decided to give up the chance to get a trump trick and led a trump hoping to beat the contract eventually, with all his values behind the opener. But he was wrong. The defence had to cash four minor winners immediately. On the trump lead, Bergdahl made eleven tricks, +650. At the other table the contract was also played by South, and Warne found the club Ace lead. So, Sweden beat the game contract and gained 13 IMPs.

Sweden got a up to a decent lead in this match but as in the two nations' first meeting, Denmark achieved a very good result on the very last board, but Sweden won the match by 7 IMPs, 12.03-7.97 VP.



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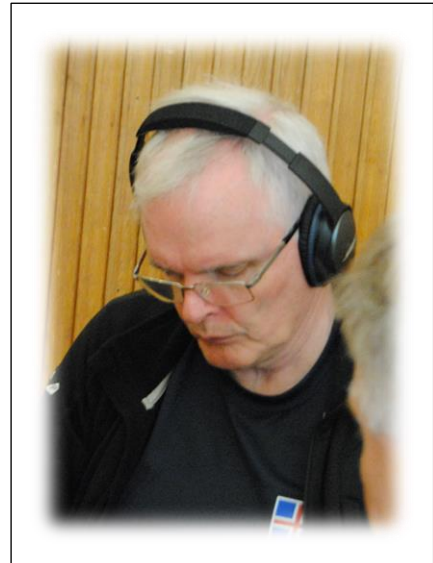
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INTERVIEW WITH A CHAMPION

JON BALDURSSON – ICELAND

Jon Baldursson is as close as we get a legend of Bridge. Making his 12th appearance in the Nordic championship is impressing. We was lucky when he found a moment to tell us about himself.



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

Married to Ella for 35 years. We have two boys, one stepdaughter, daughter and son in-law and 4 grandchildren.

I am 64 and work as a Project Manager for Icelandair Cargo. Have been with them for 36 years. Today Power BI is my favorite tool.

I was Born in Reykjavík and have been living there or close to for my whole life.

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

Wins: Bermuda Bowl 1991, Generali master 1994, Transnational 1996, 4 Nordic Championships; 1988-1994-2013-2015.

I have played 15 European Championships without any medal but 4th 3 times. I have attended Bermuda Bowl two times, so I can say I've won 50% of them.

Lots of wins in Iceland including winning Icelandic pair championship 4 times in a row with 3 different partners 1981-84.

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

Probably it was more important in last century when we had fewer tournaments to play.

I Think it still is a strong and important tournament, this is my 12th time playing the Nordic Championships. Iceland is very proud of our 6 wins 5 in Open and 1 in Women.

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

I have had many. But I am going to tell you how my 1st hand at the Nordic where.

It was 1975 and my hand was

X

Q109XXX

X

A10XXX

Partner opened 1C I thought and decided to answer positive 1H and the bidding went 1C-1H

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2S-3C

3S-4S

At this point Lida Houlgard from Denmark started to ask can he have 5S? After some panic I noticed that partner opened 1D not 1C which explain the rest

5C-5S

6H-6S

my partner hand was AK10XX-X-AXXXXX-X and we went 700 down. At the other table they went for 300 at 4S doubled 300 so we lost a few imps.

After the hand I stood up and picked up my things at the table, so everybody thought that I was leaving.

We sat in the wrong direction and we noticed after we took up our hands and we decided to change after 1st board.

5. We know you as the architect of the bidding system Ice-relay. Do you still play it yourself, is it common in Iceland?

I still play it and so do some other pairs in Iceland. The system is mostly the same but my current partner, Haraldsson, has made some good changes.

An advantage is that it is easy to memorize, you only had to count at your fingers. Compared to Viking precision I would pick Ice-relay

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

Tor Helness

7. Future goals as a bridge player?

I would enjoy playing one more Bermuda Bowl.

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

Per Breck-Reidar Lien-Espen Lindqvist-Boye Brogeland-Magnus Lindqvist-Tommy Gullberg. Monaco's soldiers would have been on the team, but I do not count them as Nordic nowadays.

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

Enjoy the game and be patient. Do some mental training.



Team Iceland Open - 2019

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STATISTICS – WOMEN'S TEAM

327 unique players have been playing the 35 first Nordic Bridge Championships in the Women's team. 106 of these players have attended 2 or more years.

Only Denmark have attended all events, Sweden missed the 2005 event and Norway the 1978 and 1980 events. Finland have Participated at 30, Iceland 23 and Faroe Island 8 championships.

Denmark:

- 59 players, 35 championships
- 10 gold
- 13 Silver
- 7 Bronze

Finland

- 51 players, 30 championships
- 3 gold
- 6 Silver
- 7 Bronze

Sweden

- 79 players, 34 championships
- 17 gold
- 6 Silver
- 8 Bronze

Iceland

- 45 players, 23 championships
- 1 gold
- 0 Silver
- 2 Bronze

All-time Greats – Nordic Championship

Name	G	S	B	Count
Gunborg Silborn	4	0	1	5
Helle Rasmussen	4	0	1	5
Lone Bilde	4	0	0	4
Catarina Midskog	3	2	1	6
Pia Andersson	3	1	1	6
Jill Mellstrøm	3	1	0	4
Britta Werner	3	0	0	3
Ann Karin Fuglestad	2	2	1	6
Marianne Harding	2	2	1	6
Judy Norris	2	2	1	5

Norway

- 63 players, 33 championships
- 4 gold
- 11 Silver
- 11 Bronze

Faroe Island:

- 15 players, 8 championships
- 0 gold
- 0 Silver
- 0 Bronze

Pirkko Savolainen (Finland) is the female player with most championships – She has won 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze during her 10 championships.

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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	Geo Tislevoll, Atle Stray, Nils Kvangraven, Bjørn Fjellstad, Harald Gjellestad

THE PER OVE SCHEI MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

WINNERS OF THE FIRST HALF

The Saturday tournament attracted just 32 pairs. We are so happy for all of you teaming up to make this a great tournament showing the memory of Per Ove Schei and his will the very best of respect.

Terje Lie - Martin Reinertsen gave a stunning performance winning the Saturday event with close to 10 % margin.

NOK 5.000, - is the lovely numbers for the first prize.

1. Terje Lie – Martin Reinertsen 223
2. Harald Gjellestad – Bjørn Fjellstad 111
3. Erik Dahl – Jon Solli Hansen 106



Terje Lie



Martin Reinertsen

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INTERVIEW WITH A CHAMPION

GUNN TOVE VIST – NORWAY

Gunn Tove Vist made her entry on the Nordic Arena back in 2007 winning the gold for Norway. Since then she has shown skills and hunger at the bidgetable making her one of the most respected players.

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

You should never ask a woman her age. My passport says I'm 39, but in my head I'm much younger. The love of my life is the famous Norwegian bridgeplayer Stoffers. We live on a small farm in Stjørdal together with our two sons, one dog and two rabbits.

I worked many years in the car industry, but because of back problems I had to quit my job as sales manager for Ford. Now I'm a part time student and work as a mathematics teacher.



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

All victories are very good memories, but if I have to pick one, I think it must be my debut at the Norwegian ladies' team when we won the Nordic Championship in 2007. None believed we could win, but we proved them wrong. I also have won several Norwegian Championships during the years and the European mixed team Championship in 2009.

3. Denmark has won the last 4 Nordic events, how do you consider the 2019 edition, is there a chance to stop the Danish dynamite?

There's always a chance. It's a short tournament so anything can happen. There are several strong teams, but I hope it's our turn to be on top again.

4. Rumors has it that you are as strong in Poker as Bridge, how do you compare Bridge and Poker, do you prefer Bridge?

In a way I have preferred Bridge. I haven't played much Poker the last ten years, but I wouldn't say one is better than the other. They have different aspects that appeal to me. The element of luck is not so present in Bridge - it's better to play Bridge for my competitive spirit. I hate to lose and especially if I lose after I played well. That can happen much more often in Poker than Bridge.

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

I know some of the countries won't send their best teams, but I still think it's an important event. The up-and-coming players get a chance to play for the National team and make a good impression – just like I did in 2007.

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The European Championship is only every second year, It fits perfect to have an event the other years also. The Norwegian ladies' team has not had many opportunities to play against high level opponents, for us the Nordics is a chance to play against top European teams.

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



Christina – feared and loved

It must be the one and only Christina Lund Madsen. She has made an impression both at - and outside the table. One of my favorite moment comes from the match against Denmark in the Nordic Championship four years ago. She was dummy and went to the toilet. Suddenly we heard loud and clear singing from the toilet. Unfortunately, she's not here this year so I hope someone else can do the singing.

7. Future goals as a bridge player?

I want to play more bridge in general and I want to become a better bridge player. The kids are getting older and hopefully that will make it easier to travel around. Since I have won the Norwegian, Nordic and European Championship, I would very much like to win a World Championship. I have never tried before, but the first chance will be the Venice cup in Wuhan later this year.

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

Believe in yourself. It takes time, but all is possible if you think you can do it and put enough effort into it. Don't waste your time on things you can't do anything about. Concentrate on yourself and your game, aiming to be as good as you can.



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THINGS I SHOULD HAVE DONE

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

Again, there was a board I should have done different. Anyhow I turn, it feels like I did a mistake. So, help me out, I hope you do the same as I did!

Dealer: South
Vul: All

♠ J 7 3 2
♥ A T 8 5
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 8 6

YOU

♠ A 10 8
♥ K 6 3 2
♦ K J T 9 2
♣ 5

This is what you see.

West	North	East	South
			<i>Stupid</i>
			1 ♦ (1+)
P	P	Dbl	P
1 ♠	P	1 NT	P
2 ♦	P	2 ♠	P
2 NT	P	3 NT	P
P	P		

You are South and led the jack of diamonds, north winning the ace and play back the 4 of diamonds. Declarer following 5-7. You win the 9, but now what?

I thought the most likely chance was to find partner with A43 of diamonds, so I cashed the king of diamonds, sadly partner discarded 9 of hearts! Dummy discarded 5 and 8 of hearts. Now what?

Is all hope gone, or do you still have a chance?

You certainly have. Declarer seems to have 3-3-5-2 or 3-2-5-3 distribution. My defense gave him a diamond, now I have to keep him away from making nine!

Dealer: South
Vul: All

♠ J 7 3 2
♥ A T 8 5
♦ 8
♣ 10 9 8 6

♠ 9 6 5
♥ 9 7 4
♦ E 4
♣ J 7 4 3 2

YOU

♠ A 10 8
♥ K 6 3 2
♦ K J T 9 2
♣ 5

♠ K Q 4
♥ Q J
♦ Q 7 6 5 3
♣ A K Q

I choose to defend passive and led a heart, well, that was not the bullseye, the layout was like this:

I guess you spot how I should have defended?
KING OF HEARTS would kill dummy!

No, that's not enough. Declarer win the ace followed by king and queen of spades, I hold back the ace. But what to discard when declarer play A, K and Q of clubs? There is an endplay coming

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MEMORIES FROM THE TOURNAMENT

