NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2019 | KRISTIANSAND, NORWAY

BULLETIN 4

OPEN TEAMS | WOMEN'S TEAMS

Greetings to our Nordic friends for making this a great tournament



June 7-9, 2019 | Kristiansand

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Open team of ICELAND and the Ladies team of SWEDEN with their Gold Medal at the Nordic Team Championship 2019.

We also salute the Open teams of Norway and Denmark together with the Ladies from Denmark and Finland for winning medals.

The Per Ove Schei Memorial Bridge Tournament became a big success as a side event of the Nordic Championships.

The Nordic Trophy was won by Sweden.

The award for the best played hand was presented to Kasper Konow for making $6 \blacklozenge X$ on a squeeze. The award was shared together with Bjørg Houmøller who played the same contract the same way.

We also must bring our biggest thanks to our two wonderful tournament directors. Jacob and Markus did a job to admire. We are lucky to have such people available to run our championships.

Thanks for visiting Kristiansand, see you all in 2 years!

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FINAL STANDINGS

OPEN TEAMS							
Р	VP	Team					
1	119,21	Iceland					
2	110,75	Norway					
3	104,98	Denmark					
4	100,69	Sweden					
5	83,27	Faroe Islands					
6	79,1	Finland					

BUTLER OPEN TEAMS							
Nr	Imps	Names	Team				
1	0,69	Bjarni Einarsson - Adelsteinn Jörgensen	Iceland				
2	0,42	Espen Lindqvist - Boye Brogeland	Norway				
3	0,41	Jon Baldursson - Sigurbjörn Haraldsson	Iceland				
4	0,25	Lars Gunnar Andersson - Tommy Bergdahl	Sweden				
5	0,21	Kauko Koistinen - Vesa Fagerlund	Finland				
6	0,14	Sejr Andreas Houlberg Jensen - Mikkel Larsen	Denmark				
7	0,09	Danjal Pauli Mohr - Arni Matras Dam	Faroe Islands				
8	0,04	Michael Askgaard - Kasper Konow	Denmark				
9	-0,04	Ulf Håkon Tundal - Nils Kvangraven	Norway				
10	-0,1	Niklas Warne - Krister Ahlesved	Sweden				
11	-0,12	Bogi Simonsen - Arne Mikkelsen	Faroe Islands				
12	-0,4	Gunnlaugur Sævarsson - Kristian M Gunnarsson	Iceland				
13	-0,4	Mika Salomaa - Pekka Vitasalo	Finland				
14	-0,56	Thomas Karlsson - Alexander Sandin	Sweden				
15	-0,68	Clas Nyberg - Arttu Karhulahti	Finland				
	-1,44	Jakup Suni Hjaltalin - Dia Jacobsen	Faroe Islands				



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WOMEN'S TEAMS

Р	VP	Team
1	118,18	Sweden
2	114,32	Finland
3	105,14	Denmark
4	101,84	Norway
5	100,96	Norway 2
6	59,56	Iceland

BUTLER WOMEN'S TEAMS

	Nr	IMP	Names	Team
ſ	1	0,44	Emma Övelius - Sanna Clementsson	Sweden
	2	0,39	Ilona Vänni - Hulda Ahonen	Finland
	3	0,28	Raija Tuomi - Pia Erkkilä	Finland
	4	0,24	Ann Karin Fuglestad - Marianne Harding	Norway
	5	0,22	Bjørg Houmøller - Signe Thomsen	Denmark
	6	0,2	Liv Marit Grude - Bodil Nyheim Øigarden	Norway 2
	7	0,11	Kathrine Bertheau - Jessica Larsson	Sweden
	8	-0,04	Stine Holmøy - Maja Rom Anjer	Norway 2
Ī	9	-0,07	Gunn Tove Vist - Torild Heskje	Norway
	10	-0,25	Lone Bilde - Helle Rasmussen	Denmark
ľ	11	-0,54	Gudrun Oskarsdottir - Anna Gudrun Ivarsdottir	Iceland
	12	-0,98	Anna Gudlaug Nielsen - Helga Helena Sturlaugsdottir	Iceland



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STATISTICS - OPEN TEAMS | 1946-2017

491 unique players have been playing the 35 first Nordic Bridge Championships in the Open teams. 182 of these players have attended 2 or more years.

Denmark:

- 98 players, 35 championships
- 2 gold
- 10 Silver
- 12 Bronze

Sweden

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

All-time Greats - Nordic Championship

Player	G	S	В	Count
Jon Baldursson	4	1	2	11
Jan Wohlin	4	0	1	5
Tor Helness	3	3	0	7
Hans Göthe	3	1	1	6
Sævar Thorbjørnsson	3	1	0	6
Anders Morath	3	1	0	5
Gunnar Johansen	3	1	0	4
Per Breck	3	1	0	4
Reidar Lien	3	1	0	4
Gunnar Anulf	3	1	0	4

Jon Baldursson (ICE) is the Open player with most championships – He has won 4 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze during his 11 championships.

Finland

- 106 players, 35 championships
- 1 gold
- 2 Silver
- 7 Bronze

Iceland

- 59 players, 23 championships
- 5 gold
- 2 Silver
- 6 Bronze

Norway

- 117 players, 35 championships
- 14 gold
- 10 Silver
- 3 Bronze

Faroe Island:

- 28 players, 17 championships
- 0 gold
- 1 Silver
- 0 Bronze

The line-ups have been picked up from magazine, the numbers might not be accurate.

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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.

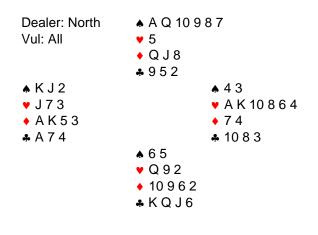
1946 - THE FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP

Back in 1946 the organizers of the first Nordic Bridge Championship in Oslo had to cope with challenges after the war. The team of Finland had to get permission to travel abroad and just before the championships they manage to get acceptance of 9 persons for the open team. In another article they write about the issues of foreign currency. They had to apply the bank before travel abroad, there was no insurance they could exchange. The federation worked hard to be accepted with the same understanding as the sports when travelling to tournaments abroad.

The championships were played with 32 boards against each team.

1946 – A BOARD TO REMEMBER

From the magazine Norsk Bridgemagasin.



The Danish player Sven Halvorsen, he was also the president of the Danish federation, became declarer in 3 NT as west.

North led the QUEEN of spade.

How would you have planned the play?

Halvorsen could see that he was safe if the hearts gave 6 tricks.

But he wanted to combine his chances. He found a smart play when he played low allowing the queen to win the first trick!

North could have beaten the contract playing a club or diamond. But who can blame him for jumping into the trap playing a spade at the second trick.

Halvorsen then was home winning the jack, a heart to the king. Diamond to the ace then the jack of hearts. When north discarded a club, the jack ran to the queen.

South had no more spades and Halvorsen made his contract scoring 1 spade, 5 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club.

At the other room the Norwegians bid 4♥ going down giving the Danish team a good result.

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1986 - BEST PLAYED HAND

Bergen Bank was sponsor of the prize given to the player with the best play during the 1986 championships. Peter Schaltz from the Danish Open Team gained glory for his defense in the match against Finland.

♦ 8 6 4 **982** 853 ♣ KQ65 Schaltz Boesgaard **♠** Q 10 9 5 3 **♦** J 2 ♥ J 4 3 ♥ Q 7 5 4 2 • A 10 9 ♣ A 8 7 ♣ J 10 4 3 2 ▲ A K 7 A K 10 6 KQJ76 **.** 9

Eero Salmenkivi, as south, became declarer of 3 NT after showing 4 hearts and 5 diamonds in the bidding. West, Knut-Aage Boeasgaard, led a spade, declarer allowed east, Peter Schaltz, to win the trick with the jack. The next spade was taken by the ace then the king of diamonds followed won by the ace.

Schaltz took advantage of the bidding, he stayed away from the heart and found the only killing defense when he turned a club, Boesgaard took his ace then cleared the spades won by the king.

Declarer didn't have much other hope for the ninth trick than to try the hearts, But Schaltz

unblocked the queen providing Boesgaard an entry on the jack of hearts.

That led to 1 down and the prize for best play to Peter Schaltz.



Denmark Open Team holds only 2 trophies so far, 1986 and 1973

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OVERALL STANDINGS - MEDALS | 1946-2019

Below is the overview of medals all thru the Nordic Bridge Championship up till 2019.

Open							Ladies						
1	Place	Denmark	Faroe			Sweden	Finland	Denmark	Faroe	Iceland	Norway	Sweden	Finland
1978	Reykjavík	3	-	4	1	2	5	2	-	3	-	1	4
1980	Norrköping	2	-	5	1	3	4	3	-	4	-	1	2
1982	Hanaholmen	4	-	3	1	2	5	2	-	-	3	1	4
1984	Helsingør	5	6	3	4	1	2	2	-	4	3	1	5
1986	Sundvolden	1	6	4	2	3	5	3	-	5	1	2	4
1988	Reykjavík	3	6	1	5	2	4	1	-	4	3	2	-
1990	Tórshavn	3	6	4	2	1	5	2	6	1	3	4	5
1992	Umeå	5	6	1	2	3	4	2	6	5	4	1	3
1994	Vaasa	4	6	1	2	3	5	1	-	5	4	3	2
1996	Faaborg	5	6	2	3	1	4	3	6	5	2	1	4
1998	Klækken	3	6	2	1	4	5	3	-	4	2	1	5
2000	Hveragerdi	4	6	3	2	1	5	2	6	5	4	3	1
2003	Torshavn	4	5	3	1	2	6	3	6	5	4	1	2
2005	Vingsted	3	6	4	1	2	5	2	5	4	3	-	1
2007	Lillehammer	2	6	5	4	3	1	3	6	4	1	2	5
009	Turku	2	6	5	1	4	3	4	-	5	1	2	2
011	Örebro	4	6	3	1	2	5	1	-	5	2	4	3
013	Island	2	6	1	4	5	3	1	-	4	2	3	-
015	Torshavn	3	2	1	5	4	6	1	5	4	3	2	
2017	Horsens	2	6	4	5	1	3	1	-	6	5	2	3
2019	Kristiansand	3	5	1	2	4	6	3		6	4	1	2
verv	iew:												
	Gold	2	0	6	14	13	1	10	0	1	4	18	3
	Silver	10	1	2	11	10	2	13	0	0	11	6	7
	Bronze	13	0	6	3	7	7	8	0	2	11	8	7
	Number of years	36	18	29	36	36	36	36	8	24	34	35	31

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HAND STORIES

SWEDEN - NORWAY (WOMEN): PREEMPTIVE BIDS

Writer: Kristian Ellingsen

In the Ladies series the teams from Norway and Sweden played against each other in round 5, and those of us who are not present at the venue in Kristiansand could follow the match on BBO. It was a close match where Sweden eventually won 21-15.

During the match there were a couple of interesting hands within the theme of preemptive bids.

What would be your choice of opening bid in West?

Dealer: West

Vul: NS

- **♠** 8
- **y** 53
- A Q 7
- +Q1098763

Kathrine Bertheau, originally from Norway, but now playing for Sweden, chose to open 4 clubs. Then no one had anything to add.

At the other table Marianne Harding opened one level lower:

Harding	Harding Clementsson		Övelius
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
3 🚣	3 NT	Р	Р
Р			

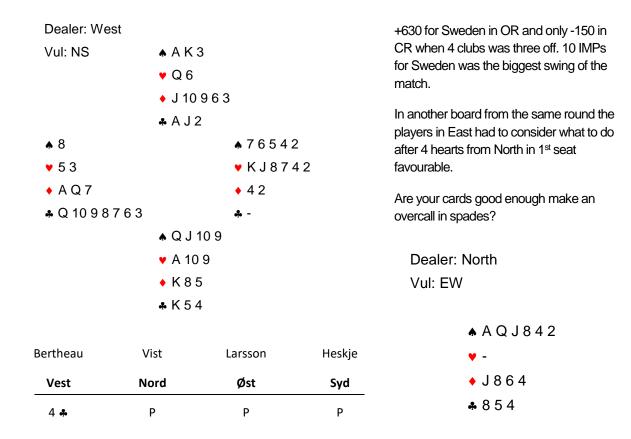
Sanna Clementsson had no trouble winning 3 NT when her partner could present a solid dummy counting 13 HCP:

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Jessica Larsson chose to bid 4 spades while Ann Karin Fuglestad passed.

This time, however, the final contract was the same. East ended up playing 6 spades doubled in both tables:

Harding	Clementsson	Fuglestad	Övelius
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
	4 🕶	Р	5 🔻
D	Р	6 ♠	Р
Р	D	Р	Р
Р			

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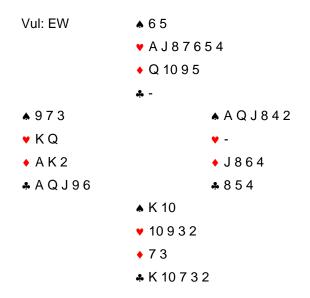
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Bertheau	Vist	Larsson	Heskje
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
	4 🕶	4 🛦	5 v
6 ♥	Р	6 ♠	Р
Р	D	Р	Р
Р			

All the cards:



At both tables South led a club. North could ruff, and when the finesse in spades was not successful the contract was down one for -200.

This time the pre-emptive bid did not create a swing, but that might obviously happen when we make different choices, both when it comes to choose of opening bid and whether or not to overcall after the opponents pre-emptive bid.

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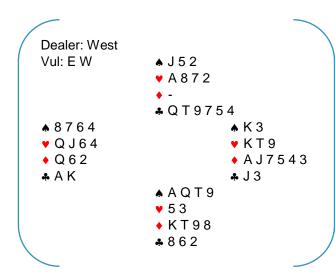
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MAJA AND STINE

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

Do i have a fairy-tale to tell you?

Yes i do. The Norwegians Stine Holmøy-Maja Rom Anjer was in a bad position in urgent need for imp. Maja chose to do something about it and entered the bidding on questionable values.



It would be hard to pin out the final contract by looking at the cards, would you try to guess?

The bidding went like this:

	Stine		
West	North	East	South
1 ♦	2 👫	3 🚓	3 🛦
Р	4 🛦	Р	Р
Р			

4sp on 16hcp and 4-3 FIT is not what you want, but hey give it a try!

West Led diamond, ruffed. Jack of spade, king, ace.

A club, king, x, x. West tried to stop any ruff and duly played a spade. Stine pulled trump, a club to the ace and a diamond to the ace.

The rest was for declarer making 10 tricks and 420!

It is hard to predict the outcome of the boards when these girls are around!



Norwegian game-bidders!

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NORWAY - DENMARK (OPEN)

Writer: Kristian B Ellingsen

In round 9 the BBO-match was between Norway and Denmark in the open category. Denmark was still in the lead, but after a few lost matches Iceland was about to catch up. Norway could maybe join the gold fight with a comfortable win and Sweden was a potential challenger as well.

What is your preferred bid in East after pass from partner and then a weak two in diamonds from North? What if North opens 3 diamonds?

Dealer: West

Vul: All

AQJ

Q8432

-

♣ A K Q 9 4

Espen Lindqvist chose a non-leaping Michaels to show at least 5-5 in clubs and a major over 3 diamonds. A few moments later his partner Boye Brogeland was declarer in 6 hearts:

Brogeland	Jensen	Lindqvist	Larsen
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
Р	3 ♦	4 🚓	5 ♦
5 ♥	Р	6 y	Р
Р	Р		

At the other table Kasper Konow chose another option over 2 diamonds, and the final contract was not the same as in the closed room:

Askgaard	Kvangraven	Konow	Tundal
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
Р	2 •	D	4 •
4 🛦	Р	Р	Р

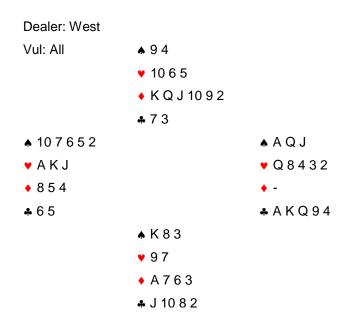
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The full layout



North led the king of diamonds at both tables. Brogeland ruffed in dummy and played two trump rounds. Then he cashed ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club with the jack of hearts. After a spade to the ace he drew the last trump. The king of spades was the only trick for the defenders. +1430 for Norway.

In a spade contract you are more vulnerable because you need to ruff diamonds with the top spades in East.

Michael Askgaard ruffed the king of diamonds, played a heart to the ace, ruffed another diamond and cashed the ace of spades. Then he cashed the top tricks in clubs, discarding his last diamond on the third while North ruffed. South also scored tricks for both his remaining trumps, and the contract was just made. Vulnerable slam swing for Norway was worth 13 IMPs.

Norway won 5 IMPs on the next boards and led 24-0 after five boards. Then the Danes woke up and won 30 IMPs on the next 3 boards. Here is one of the boards that gave needed IMPs for Denmark:

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Dealer: East		
Vul: EW	♦ 854	
	v 8	
	→ J9732	
	♣ A J 8 5	
♦ 92		♠ A K Q J 7 6
♥ A Q 10 4		∀ KJ32
• 10 8		• Q 6
4 10 9 7 6 2		* 4
	▲ 10 3	
	v 9765	
	• A K 5 4	
	. K Q 3	

Askgaard	Kvangraven	Konow	Tundal
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
		1 ♣	Р
1 ◆	Р	1 🌲	Р
2 🚣	Р	2 •	Р
2 🔻	Р	4 🛦	Р
Р	Р		

1 club showed a strong hand and 1 diamond 0-7 HCP. Despite they found the 4-4-fit in hearts, Konow chose to close the bidding with 4 spades, probably because of his solid suit.

In closed room the bidding took another turn:

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Brogeland	Jensen	Lindqvist	Larsen
Vest	Nord	Øst	Syd
		1 🛦	D
Р	2 ♦	2 🛦	3 ♦
3 🛦	4 ♦	Р	Р
Р			

After the spade opening it was quite natural to make a takeout double in South. This time it turned out to be a weak heart suit in South, but the takeout double made it far less attractive to look for a heart fit for East-West. Lindquist may have feared a couple of losers in hearts. Imagine if South and West switched heart suit, and west had his honors in clubs.

This is a classic example of turns created by different bidding systems. Noone really made a bad mistake. The takeout double from South in closed room just made it less likely to bid game. In open room South had no bid over a strong club opening, and East-West was able to continue the bidding undisturbed.

Denmark led 24-30 halfway into the match. Over the last 8 boards Norway earned 28 IMPs, while Denmark earned 13. Norway eventually won the match with the IMP-score 52-43. This corresponded to 12, 55 - 7,45 in VPs. Maybe the victory was too small to win gold?

The standing before the last round, where the matches were Denmark – Iceland and Norway - Sweden was like this:

lceland 102,79
Denmark 101,40
Sweden 96,25
Norway 95,19

It was most likely that either Iceland or Denmark would win the trophy, but there was still a theoretical chance for Sweden and Norway as well.



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DANCING LIKE HELGEMO

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

Geir Helgemo is my hero. His way of bridge is pure gold. He is missed at the Norwegian team, there have been to many championships at another national team!

Helgemo saved me at this board when we faced a strong running Faroe Islands. I got to think about one of Helgemos many wise tips; when in doubt go for the highest score!



Here is what you see as south:

Dealer: North Vul: None

A K 7 ▼ A 7 6 3 • -♣ K Q T 9 8 2 The bidding:

Tundal			Kvangraven	
West	North	East	South	
	1 ♦	2 🛦	Dbl	
4 🛦	5 ♦	Р	?	

We play precision, but you do hope pd holds a few diamonds. Do you have a clear choice of bid?

It is a guess, pass, 6c, 6nt, 5nt?

I figured pd to hold clubs since he seemed to be short spade. So i picked up Helgemos advice and bid 6c. Not my Worst decision, the full hand:

West led Jack of spade, plan the play.

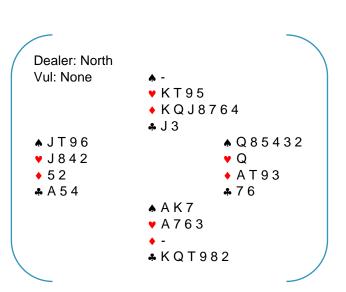
You can ruff a spade, discard heart on AK spade and ruff a heart hoping for a 3-2 split.

Hey, isn't there another chance to explore?

How about king of diamond first? If East cover, you win without 3-2 in heart. If he plays low you go back to the heart ruff.

So i asked for king of diamond, ace, ruff, low.

King of club came next and the contract made, +920!



Thanks, Geir Helgemo, i hope you have more advises next time around.

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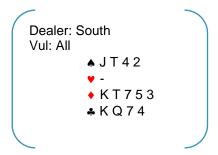
THAT BIDDING PROBLEM AGAIN

Writer: Nils Kvangraven

I'm sure you are with me; don't we all face those bidding challenges too often?

This hand came up at the 7th round of the championship, give it a try.

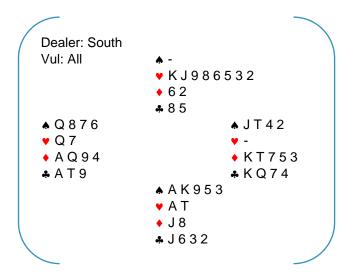
You are east, all vulnerable



		You		
_	West	North	East	South
				1 🛦
	1 NT	4 ♥	?	

I guess pass is not an alternative. So dbl, 4nt as minors, or could 4NT be to play?

Danjal Pauli Moh from Faroe Islands hit the jackpot when we bid 4 NT aiming to find a minor fit. And right he was, the hand looked like this





There was only 1 pair bidding up to 5♦ in the open teams.

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PER OVE SCHEI MEMORIAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

THE FINAL DAY

I know Per Ove would have loved this event. Him being the reason why so many players get together playing bridge, socializing and make the whole Nordic Championships so much better.

My views might not count, but maybe this formula can be copied at the coming championships? A side event attracting players to join the social life during such a tournament has been a sure winner during this event.

The final day of the Memorial Tournament became a blitz. The winners putting up a strong performance winning by a very small margin.

Results Sunday:

Karl Olav N Hansen – Carl Johan Knutsen
Mona Lindstrøm – Ole Fuglestad
Jon Solli Hansen – Erik Dahl
133

The overall standings were also a close call. The prize of NOK 3.000, - to the winner(s) was won by only a small margin

The Overall winners: Terje Lie - Martin Reinertsen



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INTERVIEW WITH A CHAMPION

KATHRINE BERTHEAU - SWEDEN

Kathrine was born in Norway and grew up together with her good friend Tonje Brogeland in Kongsberg. Most people count her as Swedish, but Norwegians do not let her go too easy. She is still celebrating the national day, 17th of May. I'm sure she has a hidden flag in the closet where Peter never look! Kathrine can look back on 10 Nordic championships, 1 gold, 4 silver and 1 Bronze.

Now she is back in Norway, we had to have a chat with the successful Swedish-Norwegian!



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

I live in Stockholm with Peter and our two children Nora and Markus. I work as an IT-consultant.

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

My first medal was in the open European championships in Menton, we got a silver in the mixed teams. The next year we won the European championships in Malmö.

My latest medal was from the open world championships in Orlando where we lost in the finals.

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

Yes, I think the Nordic championship is a very important event. It gives us an opportunity to compete on a high level and to create good relationships between bridge players in neighboring countries. I think it is especially important for the juniors. The Nordic championships is usually their first international competition and I think it is an important motivation to continue to play bridge.

4. Future goals as a bridge player?

My first goal is always to play more bridge. I love to play, and I always want to play more. I also like to win of course, and my biggest goal is to win the Venice cup.

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

I dont think there is a shortcut, the answer is always to play a lot, to play with and against good players, and maybe to listen and learn

6. Finally, we just have to ask; is there a hope for you returning to Norway?

My bridge partner has decided to move to Norway, so I guess the chances are better than they have been for many years. But I would say that they are still not very good. I have been living in Sweden and competing for Sweden for more than 15 years, and since the rules for switching country are quite strict it would take a lot for me to change.

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NORDIC BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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BULLETIN 4

FAREWELL MESSAGE

THANK YOU ALL

By Nils Kvangraven - Organizer

My dear friends,

I hope you all join me in shouting a big cheerio for this great event.

The Nordic Bridge Championships have been under pressure with discussions going on about dispend the whole Nordic Bridge Union. I do hope the Kristiansand event of 2019 have showed players, visitors and officials that the Nordic friendships needs to grow also in the future; it does bring us a lot of joy and happiness.

You all gave me a lot of joy showing great sportsmanship at the table during the event. When I talked to Bob Hamman in late 2018, he told me something we all should take to our hearts

"you Scandinavians must be the most polite and honest people l've ever met"

Maybe Boye Brogeland was the one he was thinking about. I told Bob that we ALL are like Boye, during this weekend I got a confirmation that I was right.

Bridge is a great sport. It is a great place to meet people, and it is a great place to spend our spare time thru our whole life. I have enjoyed every second of it so far, I know I will enjoy all the coming seconds at and around the bridge table.

As we all are friends I end this championship with an appeal to the officials;

I challenge the Nordic federations to not stop the Nordic Championships until all nations have won a gold medal in both the Open and Ladies event.

I hope it takes a hundred years, and I hope you forgive me Bogi when I cheer for your team to win silver medal in all the coming events.

My friends, thanks for your love of bridge.

Nils 🚱

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

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MEMORIES FROM THE FINAL DAY











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