

Hi Women Bridge Co Ordinator's (WBCs) and All,

WELL DONE SWEDEN, WORLD CHAMPIONS, showing how an incredible energy and focus to win brought you gold at the 44<sup>th</sup> World Championships in China and the coveted Venice Cup. Your determination and drive was evident from the start of the championships.

Have a look at this commentary from the final 44<sup>th</sup> World Bulletin <u>http://championships.worldbridge.o</u> <u>rg/wuhanwt19-</u> <u>files/bulletins/Bul\_15.pdf</u>

'..... Sanna Clementsson may well be the youngest Venice Cup winner ever. She was world U21champion in 2018.Ida Grönkvist also has 2 previous world titles, at U21 in 2014 and U26 in 2018. Cecilia Rimstedt won the U26 Pairs in 2006. Both of them, Kathrine Bertheau and Emma Övelius, were on the Venice Cup team that won bronze two years ago. Jessica Larsson and **Kathrine** Bertheau won silver in last year's McConnell.....'

EBL WOMEN'S NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020 SWEDEN ON TOP OF THE WORLD

### Venice Cup



SWEDEN: Carina WADEMARK coach, Emma ÖVELIUS, Ida GRÖNKVIST, Kathrine BERTHEAU, Cecilia RIMSTEDT,Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Jessica LARSSON, Kenneth BORIN captain



#### **GOLD FOR SWEDEN**



Kenneth Borin NPC



Carina Wademark Coach



ENGLAND: Catherine DRAPER, Gillian FAWCETT, Nicola SMITH, Heather DHONDY, Yvonne WISEMAN, Nevena SENIOR, David BURN coach, David GOLD captain



### **BRONZE FOR ENGLAND**

Well Done to England on their Bronze position and thus Europe holds two of the three top places for women in the World!



Many thanks to Carina Wademark and the Swedish team for their piece about winning the Venice Cup. >>>



'Sanna Clementsson may be youngest Venice Cup winner' and Sanna was also in the U21 team who won the world Youth teams in 2018 and was in the Swedish team who won the European Championship for

mixed teams in Lisbon 2019



'Ida Grönkvist also has 2 previous world titles' and was in the Venice Cup team that won bronze two years ago', won silver in the European

Championship in Ostende 2018 and was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1st IMSA world masters championship 2019 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Beijing Hua Yuan Cup in 2019, She was also in the Swedish team who won the European Championship for mixed teams in Lisbon 2019 and won the European Youth teams U26 in 2019



Cecilia Rimstedt won the U26 Pairs in 2006 and was on the Venice Cup team that won bronze 2 years ago' and won silver in the European Championship in Ostende 2018, was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1st

IMSA world masters championship 2019 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Beijing Hua Yuan Cup in 2019 and she also won the open mixed pair championship in Lisbon 2019



'Emma Övelius was on the Venice Cup team that won bronze two years ago'

Jessica Larsson won silver in the European Championship in Ostende 2018 and last year, 2019, was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1st IMSA World Masters championship, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Beijing Hua Yuan Cup in 2019 and won silver in last year's

McConnell.



Kathrine Bertheau played McConnell with Jessica last year, she also was in the Venice Cup team that won bronze two years ago', won silver in the European Championship in Ostende 2018 and in 2019 was in 2<sup>nd</sup>

place in 1st IMSA World Masters championship 2019 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Beijing Hua Yuan Cup.

#### VENICE CUP, WORLDS WUHAN, CHINA 2019

#### Sweden wins Venice Cup 2019

The Venice Cup Trophy is back in Europe after Sweden won the final against the reigning champions China. Only four European nations have won the Venice Cup before;

- England 1981,1985
- Germany 1995, 2001
- Netherlands 1999
- France 2005, 2011, 2015

It's a nice list to be added to! We were asked to write a few lines on what we think made the difference and took us all the way to World Champions. We know that the skill set in the Swedish team is high, but our mindset is that we can always improve, and we take every chance we can to compete and practice. We hope to meet you all in live-competition and practice as well as on BBO through the EBL practice matches, so we all show that Europe is a force to be recognized in all championships to come.

Our team consists of young people and very close friends. We would say that this leads to a winning combination of high spirit and endurance when you are going for battle over 2 weeks. Many of you probably noticed that we struggled in the Round Robin. For example, we did manage to take 0.. against Norway (any loss against a Scandinavian country is always a bit disappointing, a miniderby kind of thing). But with great teammates, you do not really care about a big loss, you just focus on the next match. In the end, we qualified with a good margin.

In the knock-out phase, we met USA 1, England and China. We believe the play will be referenced elsewhere but we will comment on two things. All of us have been in the knock-out phase before, and it is more tiring than the Round Robin, more adrenalin, and you might lose your 96-board knock-out for a misplay in a part score. For this reason, we would argue that it is very important to "practice" on this phase as often as you get a chance, in your home country, or abroad. Just see to it that your team do this, repeatedly. The knock-out phase is also the most exciting one, so do enjoy it, there is no better feeling than being in contention for the medals!

Next ahead for us is IMSA in May followed by the Europeans in the summer and the World Bridge Games. As Swedes live in the cooler part of Europe, we really are looking forward to meeting you all in Madeira and fight for the European title! From the SWEDISH TEAM

Kathrine BERTHEAU, Sanna CLEMENTSSON, Ida GRONKVIST, Jessica LARSSON, Emma OVELIUS, Cecilia RIMSTEDT, Kenneth BORIN NPC, Carina WADEMARK Coach

**EUROPE** has **THREE of the TOP FOUR** WOMEN'S **TEAMS IN THE** WORLD

**Eight Teams gualified from 54<sup>th</sup> European Team Championships in** Ostend 2018 to represent the EBL at the 44<sup>th</sup> World Championships in China last September. Poland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, England, Netherlands, Scotland and France. Five of these reached the Quarter finals, Poland, Sweden, Norway, England and Netherlands. **Three reached Semi Finals** Netherlands, England and Sweden and so three EUROPEAN WOMEN'S TEAMS are in the TOP FOUR in the World. WELL DONE EUROPE.



**Nevena Senior** 7 World Medals



**Heather Dhondy 6 World Medals** 



**Catherine Draper 4 World Medals** 



Yvonne Wiseman 2 World Medals

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sweden 3<sup>rd</sup> England 4<sup>th</sup> in the World- Netherlands



Merel BRUIJNSTEEN, Laura DEKKERS, Jet PASMAN, Anneke SIMONS, Wietske VAN ZWOL, Martine VERBEEK, Aarnout HELMICH(NPC) Peter IJSSELMUIDEN

Poland lost to England

**Netherlands lost to England** 

**QUARTER FINALS** 

**FINAL PLAY OFF** 

Norway lost to Netherlands



#### **ENGLAND'S NICOLA SMITH REACHES 20 MEDALS**



'By winning a bronze medal in the Venice Cup, Nicola Smith has advanced her total of medals to 20. That draws her level with two other bridge immortals, none other than Giorgio Belladonna and Bobby Wolff. Only one player has succeeded in winning more than 20 medals,

the incredible Bob Hamman, whose total currently stands at 31. Nicola won her first medal in 1976 and she has since won six world titles, eight silver medals and six bronzes.' Taken from Bulletin 15 See Link http://championships.worldbridge.org/wuhanwt19files/bulletins/Bul\_15.pdf

Heather Yvonne Gillian Nevena **Catherine Nicola** 





David Gold NPC

**David Burn Coach** 





Kasia is a member of the EBL Women's Committee and while dashing around the world took time to tell us about the 44th Worlds in September in Wuhan, China and the 9<sup>th</sup> Open Europeans in Istanbul, Turkey last June.

What Kasia doesn't say is that she was on the Apple Pie team that won the Women's teams in the 9th Open Championships in Istanbul.

In the 44th Worlds Women's Teams for Venice Cup, Poland reached the quarter finals losing to England. Kasia was on the team of ..

Cathy BALDYSZ, Sophia BALDYSZ, Katarzyna DUFRAT, Danuta KAZMUCHA, Anna SARNIAK, Justyna ZMUDA, Miroslaw CICHOCKI captain,Marek WOJCICKI coach

	APPLE PIE
COUNTRY	
	Tatiana DIKHNOVA (Russia)
	Catherine D'OVIDIO (France)
<b>A</b>	Katarzyna DUFRAT (Poland)
<b>W</b>	Tatiana PONOMAREVA (Russia)
FRANCE, POLAND, RUSSIA	Sylvie WILLARD (France)
	Justyna ZMUDA (Poland)

# A WORD OF encouragement to attend Women's events from Polish Champion

## Katarzyna Dufrat (Kasia)

This year I attended both most important Women events – 9th European Open Champions in Istanbul and 44th World Bridge Teams Championships in Wuhan, China. Thinking about both events brings me great memories.

For me (and probably for all of us) bridge has never been only about playing cards. It's also about visiting places, meeting people from all over the world, tasting food and having a **look at** local culture.

I'm aware that some people have mixed feelings when main events are organised in countries that are not considered as "western" as USA or France. But you need to know that you are losing a lot.

Istanbul is a very nice place for events like these – great weather, delicious food and very helpful organisers. The playing venue was prepared perfectly with lots of room between tables and special small rooms for the vugraph. The only thing I can complain about are problems to get a good coffee – but I'm a coffee lover so that was my personal horror<sup>(2)</sup> I had a great time in Wuhan as well – the Chinese Federation always do a great job when hosting events. The playing area was very comfortable and well placed. Opening and closing ceremonies of Chinese events are always spectacular – you can get some knowledge about the culture by watching the performances of local artists and trying some of the local food prepared by the host.

So, for next year – please do not hesitate to attend Championships like these<sup>®</sup> I'm sure you're going to have great memories of both – bridge and places you visit. And the most important thing – we can meet at the bridge table!

### Winners Women's Teams at 9<sup>th</sup> European Open Championships, Istanbul, June 2019



Women Teams Championships Winners: Sylvie WILLARD, Justyna ZMUDA, Catherine D'OVIDIO, Pierre ZIMMERMANN, Katarzyna DUFRAT, Tatiana PONOMAREVA, Tatiana DIKHNOVA

<sup>&</sup>gt;>>>>



Nicole has played internationally and it was through the cutting edge of playing in trials to represent England for Women's international Lady Milne (England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland, Republic of Ireland) that she found '...inspiration to become a good Director perhaps?....'

Excitement runs through the piece Nicole has written for us, recounting in part, her time as a TD in Istanbul for the 9<sup>th</sup> EBL Open Championships last June. It was an exciting time for all of us and of course for Kasia who won the Women's teams and if you are wishing you were there do come and join us for the next Open Transnational Championships 2021 but first come to Madeira for the National Women's Pairs, June 17- 20, 2020.

Nicole speaks of fellow women TDs Sarah Amos, Gitte Hecht-Johansen and Megan Jones and it's clear there is camaraderie and respect between them.

Sadly, Nicole has had to withdraw from the TD Workshop in Belfast February 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, to run the trials for the newest bridge opportunity in the EBL calendar for women – European Mixed Teams trials. No doubt her TD Women friends will miss her but after .... WORK – WORK will have FUN - FUN as hopefully they will have some time to enjoy all that Destination Belfast has to offer!

# WOMAN TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR NICOLE BARCLAY (COOK) writes of her SCARY ADVENTURES, EXCITING YET 'CAN BE' BRUISING TIMES

Have you ever done something that scared you? My partner and I took ourselves to South Africa this festive season with the sole purpose of eyeballing a shark. As I plunged into a metal cage in the middle of an ocean I pondered what had prepared me for this feet

first assault on every one of my senses. Well. Shark diving, I will do again any day. But despite having already sat maybe a dozen directing exams in my career to date, I find the prospect of another more frightening than sharks rattling my cage. But doing things that scare



me can lead to wonderful opportunities. In June 2019, I was privileged to be asked to join the team of hard working directors and organising staff for four days of the 2019 European Open Pairs. What an adventure – did you know that world class players revoke and lead out of turn just like our club players do? And often. On my second day I was tested in the field on no less than twenty law book rulings – which is most fabulous because each TD call challenges memory, interpretation and communication in a range of European languages – while the official language of European tournaments is English – in this day and age where festival bridge is changing the way bridge is run, being able to communicate in a friendly manner that every player can understand and accept is becoming a vital skill for TDs.

Did I feel like a minnow in a shark pool? Now I actually do know what that feels like, so I can say not at all. The organisation is superb – a set of boards at every table, time clocks visible from anywhere, big open rooms with great light. And without exception, I experienced polite, smiling players there to have a good time and compete fairly. And my directing colleagues showed me



professional respect and support – and getting to know each other outside of the bridge meant I knew who to call on for translation and consultation. We even had a TD bridge tournament one evening to suss each other out bridgewise, and

experience the playing conditions of our players (we even played at BBO tables and had a post event bulletin!). Invaluable and great fun, if tiring.





Spot Nicole Front row near middle

# FINAL WORD FROM NICOLE

My tips for any aspiring director learn your basic laws – nothing beats the law book for this – it has everything you need to give you confidence to be yourself to help your players when things go wrong. Keep yourself current, for that I thoroughly recommend attending EBL trainings, and sign up for any podcasts, videos, articles and commentaries that talk case examples.

In the meantime, as a woman I cannot rest on my laurels so will follow my own advice. Directing is a bruising experience for me, but despite the knocks, I love what I do – many of my favourite things come together – people, travel, languages, technology, and funny and exciting bridge play.

I look forward to meeting lots more bridge players in 2020 and beyond. Happy bridging to all. Nicole Barclay (Cook) Other moments away from the bridge brought a chance to explore and meet wonderful local

people. I thoroughly loved my days in Pendik, Turkey. It is a suburb located deep in the conservative Asian



side of Istanbul, but as the re-election confirmed the popular candidate, the celebrations in the street were loud and joyous. The Saturday market was a loud, colourful affair (photos) on the doorstep of the hotel. And the promenade was filled every night with families picnicking.

Looking to what is ahead for 2020. A gender neutral edition of the laws has been drafted and will soon be available for comment on the WBF website, and a revised commentary of the 2017 laws is pending. The EBL are working on a publication of past EBL reviews which are really great for learning. Have you noticed that Conditions of Contest now include all audiences? This is a great initiative started in 2019 which I am sure will continue. And please keep an eye out and fingers crossed for three exceptional English TDs I count on for successful events – Sarah Amos, Gitte Hecht-Johansen and Megan Jones each have their own style and will be in

Belfast rounding their skills at the EBL TD



workshop. For my part, the English appetite for selection by trials is keeping me extremely busy in the early part of the year. Everyone is welcome to the English Easter Congress, and the Summer Bridge Festival in Eastbourne. Alternatively, bring a team to the Spring Fours in Stratford-Upon-Avon in May. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mutton Cup Individual takes place in Madrid in August. For an island festival of fun and great bridge come to Madeira for the festival in early November where there is a week of pairs, teams and even a charity Inter-Nation Swiss Pairs run by Sven from Iceland.

# WHAT'S NEXT IN THE EBL CALENDAR FOR WOMEN?

WOMENS AND SENIORS NATIONAL PAIRS

### WHEN?

In the days before the EBL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS MADEIRA Wed 17<sup>th</sup> to Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Women Pairs from same NBO who are in good standing in their EBL NBO. No other qualification is required

LINK

http://www.eurobridge.org/

# EVENT DETAILS

Following on the success in Ostend 2018, the Women's & Seniors' National Pairs will be held in the Hotel Savoy, in Funchal, Madeira just prior to the Women's & Seniors' National Teams Championships. Both Women's and Seniors' National Pairs will start on Wednesday 17 June and will finish on Saturday 20 June 2020.

The European Women Pairs Championship was established in 1987 at the initiative of then EBL Women Committee Chairman the late Anna-Maria Torlontano. It was initially held during the first days of the European Team Championships (prior to the start of the Women Teams competition) and revived in Budapest in 2016 . The Senior Pairs were introduced to run alongside the Women's Pairs in Ostend in 2018.

# Women's & Senior's National Pairs Funchal, Madeira Island. Portugal



# Watch Out for Further Information

http://www.eurobridge.org/

### WINNERS NATIONAL WOMEN'S PAIRS 1987 TO 2018

Year	Venue	Winners
2018	Ostend, Belgium	Ferda ZORLU (TUR) Nilgun KOTAN (TUR)
2016	Budapest, Hungary	Hila LEVI (ISR) Adi ASULIN (ISR)
2001	Tenerife, Spain	Daniela Von ARNIM (GER) Sabine AUKEN (GER)
1999	Malta, Malta	Elisabeth LACROIX (FRA) Catherine POULAIN (FRA)
1997	Montecatini, Italy	Daniela Von ARNIM (GER) Sabine AUKEN (GER)
1995	Vilamoura, Portugal	Daniela Von ARNIM (GER) Sabine AUKEN (GER)
1993	Menton, France	Carla ARNOLDS (NED) Bep VRIEND (NED)
1991	Killarney, Ireland	Danielle AVON (FRA) Ginette CHEVALLEY (FRA)
1989	Turku, Finland	Eva-Liss GÖTHE (SWE) Madeleine SWANSTRÖM (SWE)
1987	Brighton, England	Nevena DELEVA (BUL) Matilda POPLILOV (BUL)



EBL Women's Bridge now has 25 Volunteer Co-Ordinator's (WBCs)

At 9<sup>th</sup> EBL Officer's Seminar in Belfast 2018 we asked...

Should there be Women's Bridge?



To be, or not to be, that is the question.

See link http://www.eurobridge.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/02/Womens-Bridge-Sevin%C3%A7-Atay-Mary-Kelly-Rogers.pdf

The Consensus was YES so, we went about looking for Women Bridge Co-Ordinators (WBCs) in each NBO to work together.

# In 2018 at the 9<sup>th</sup> EBL Seminar in Belfast we asked NBOs to

1. Choose a person in each NBO to look after Women's Bridge

We now have 25 WOMEN BRIDGE Co-Ordinator's (WBCs)

2. Each NBO to create a database of women players

This would be helpful to keep Women players INFOMED and a tool for example for circulating This Newsletter to Women Players and a tool for Networking.

3. Each National WBC would

Inform Women

### Encourage

participation in European and World Events

### Network

Help Develop Women's international game Use Training tools, such as BBO

WBCs have been instrumental in the setting up of

- EBL Women Online Matches for Top Players
- Looking at setting up EBL Practice matches for new and aspiring players to international level
- Encouraging Women attendance at the EBL 9<sup>th</sup> Open Championships in Istanbul 2019
- Circulates Information Newsletters to Women players in their NBO
- 4. Encourage, Support, Propose and Elect Women to NBO and EBL Executives

Women representation of EBL National Executive has doubled. In 2018, Sevinç Atay was re-elected and

Kari-Anne Opsal joined the Executive.

### NBOs with Women Bridge Co-Ordinators (WBCs)

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic,Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland(2), Israel, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

Contact details for WBCs can be sought by contacting: -

Catherine Vitry at		catherine@europeanbridge.org		
(	or	eblwomen@gmail.com or		

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR WOMEN'S BRIDGE:

We have set up schedules of Practice matches on BBO for

- Top Top Women players
- We want to set up a separate schedule for new & aspiring players

Please let us know of your Interest in either category by emailing <u>eblwomen@gmail.com</u> or

YOU CAN CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION FROM 9<sup>th</sup> EBL OFFICERS' SEMINAR in BELFAST 2018 at the 10<sup>th</sup> NBOs OFFICERS' SEMINAR in Prague, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan to 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2020

**By speaking** to EBL Women's Committee Chair, Sevinç Atay and also to member of the Women's Committee Kari-Anne Opsal on what further can be done to help WOMEN'S BRIDGE. IMPORTANT: We nave 25 WOMEN BRIDGE CO- ORDINAORS (WBCs) as a result of being on the Agenda of the 9th EBL Officers' Seminar in Belfast!

#### Many thanks to Contributors:

Carina Wademark, Katarzyna Dufrat (Kasia) and Nicole Barclay (Cook)

> Editor: Mary Kelly Rogers

EBL Women's Committee Chairwoman Sevinç Atay Members: Katarina Dufrat, Kari-Anne Opsal, Silvia Valentini, Mary Kelly Rogers Email: eblwomen@gmail.com

# EBL WOMEN'S PRACTICE MATCHES ONLINE

Practice matches have been taking place on BBO since January 2019 building slowly with some teams using the matches as preparation for the Venice Cup.

It is an easy format. Teams are scheduled to play on a Tuesday but can arrange their matches on a date and time to suit both teams.

Teams decide the no of boards to play, whether they allow spectators and usually use the matches for analysis afterwards possibly with their coaches.

At present 14 teams are scheduled twice monthly until end of May but new teams can be accommodated.

The teams using this facility are the top team in NBOs.

It is hoped that WBCS/NBOs will consider submitting teams of 'new and aspiring' players to International level and then a separate schedule of matches can be setup for these teams.

Submissions and Enquiries should be sent to eblwomen@gmail.com

### **SCHEDULE of PRACTICE MATCHES**

AT PRESENT for Top Women players. Our hope is to have a separate Schedule for new and aspiring players so please let us know of your Interest in either category by emailing eblwomen@gmail.com

### EBL WOMEN'S ONLINE PRACTICE MATCHES

#### JAN 7th to APRIL 7th 2020

Country	Jan 7- 14	Jan 21-28	Feb 4-11	Feb 18-25	Mar 3-10	Mar17-24	Mar 31- Apr 7
Estonia	Norway	Spain	Turkey	Hungary	Germany	Sweden	Poland
Norway	Estonia	Israel	Italy	Poland	Ireland	France	Spain
Scotland	Sweden	Denmark	Germany	Spain	Hungary	Turkey	Italy
Sweden	Scotland	Poland	France	Ireland	Italy	Estonia	Hungary
Israel	Turkey	Norway	Hungary	Denmark	Spain	Germany	France
Turkey	Israel	Ireland	Estonia	Italy	France	Scotland	Denmark
Poland	Germany	Sweden	Spain	Norway	Denmark	Hungary	Estonia
Germany	Poland	Italy	Scotland	Italy	Estonia	Israel	Ireland
Ireland	Hungary	Turkey	Denmark	Sweden	Norway	Spain	Germany
Hungary	Ireland	France	Israel	Estonia	Scotland	Poland	Sweden
Italy	Spain	Germany	Norway	Turkey	Sweden	Denmark	Scotland
Spain	Ktaly.	Estonia	Poland	Scotland	Israel	Ireland	Norway
France	Denmark	Hungary	Sweden	Germany	Turkey	Norway	Israel
Denmark	France	Scotland	Ireland	Israel	Poland	Italy	Turkey

#### APRIL 14th to MAY 31st 2020

Country	Apr 14-21	Apr 28	May 3	May 10	May 17	Maγ24 31
Estonia	Scotland	Ireland	Denmark	Italy	France	Israel
Norway	Turkey	Hungary	Germany	Sweden	Denmark	Scotland
Scotland	Estonia	France	Israel	Poland	Ireland	Norway
Sweden	Israel	Denmark	Turkey	Norway	Spain	Germany
Israel	Sweden	Italy	Scotland	Ireland	Poland	Estonia
Turkey	Norway	Poland	Sweden	Hungary	Germany	Spain
Poland	Ireland	Turkey	Italy	Scotland	Israel	France
Germany	Hungary	Spain	Norway	Denmark	Turkey	Sweden
Ireland	Poland	Estonia	France	Israel	Scotland	Italy
Hungary	Germany	Norway	Spain	Turkey	Italy	Denmark
Italy	France	Israel	Poland	Estonia	Hungary	Ireland
Spain	Denmark	Germany	Hungary	France	Sweden	Turkey
France	Italy	Scotland	Ireland	Spain	Estonia	Poland
Denmark	Spain	Sweden	Estonia	Germany	Norway	Hungary

PRACTICE MATCH CO-ORDINATOR MARY (KELLY ROGERS) mkrbridge@gmail.com highrock