

3RD ONLINE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Online on RealBridge • 9 - 11 January, 2026

Issue N. 3. 2026.01.12

Amy Casanova (Editor) & Francesca Canali (Editor & Layout Editor)

THE BELGIAN QUEENS



Antonella Couteaux



Nicole Marechal



Marie-Francoise Stas



Dominique Stuyck



Caroline Vandenbossche

Congratulations to team **Belgian Women** (Antonella Couteaux, Nicole Maréchal, Marie-Françoise Stas, Dominique Stuyck (captain), Caroline Vandenbossche), winners of the 3rd European Online Women's Teams Championships!

Runners-up are team **Philosophers** (Adi Asulin, Ronnie Benin-Barr, Hila Levi, Sylvia Pelossof, Dana Tal, Noga Tal).

Bronze medalists are team **Istanbul** (Aslı Acar, Ebru Ateş, Berrak Erkan, İrem Özbay, Dilek Yavaş).



Thank You!

We would like to thank all players who took part in the 3rd Online European Women's Teams Championship.

Thanks to your continued support and participation, this event keeps growing year after year, bringing together this time 322 players from 35 countries across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

The teams ranked first and second will be awarded vouchers for use at EBL face-to-face events over the next two years, with a total value of €2,400 per team. We hope you will make the most of this opportunity and enjoy the face-to-face championships. We very much look forward to welcoming you in person.

And don't forget the prize ceremony: medals will be presented to the first- and second-ranked teams during the main ceremony of the European National Team Championships, to be held in Riga, Latvia, on 7 July 2026.

In addition, in accordance with the Conditions of Contest, the teams finishing first and second are invited to take part in the European Women's Champions Cup, to be held in Zurich from 12 to 14 November 2026, for a top-level experience alongside the best teams in Europe.

Before closing, we would like to extend a very special thank you to the EBL Online Championships Manager, Marc van Beijsterveldt, and to Tournament Directors Gordon Rainsford and Jacob Duschek for their professionalism, dedication, and excellent work throughout the championship.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to the RealBridge team, Andy Bowles and Shireen Mohandes, for their constant availability and unwavering support, which once again made it possible to deliver a high-quality online championship experience.

**OPEN TO PLAYERS
FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD!**

EUROPEAN WINTER
OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

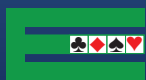
EUROPEAN WINTER
MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

EUROPEAN WINTER
SWISS CUP
OPEN BAM
OPEN PAIRS
MIXED PAIRS



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

— PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC · 10 - 19 FEBRUARY, 2026 —



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

📍 TOP CONGRESS HOTEL PRAGUE

🔗 [CHAMPIONSHIPS.EUROBRIDGE.ORG/EWTC2026](https://championships.eurobridge.org/ewtc2026) ✉ [INFO@EUROBRIDGE.ORG](mailto:info@eurobridge.org)

❄ EBL TITLES, MEDALS & MASTERPOINTS ❄ FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE: PLAY IN AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU LIKE! ❄
❄ SPECIAL ENTRY FEES FOR NON-TITLED PLAYERS ❄ EXCLUSIVE CONDITIONS AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP HOTEL ❄



3rd WBF Online WOMEN'S TEAMS

Online on RealBridge, 27 - 29 March, 2026



TRANSNATIONAL EVENT

OPEN TO PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



UP TO 8 PLAYERS PER TEAM



FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

TEAMS CHOOSE WHEN THEY CAN PLAY



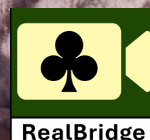
NO TRAVEL OR ACCOMMODATION COSTS

PLAY ONLINE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME



LOW ENTRY FEES

INFO & REGISTRATION: [WWW.WORLDBRIDGE.ORG](https://www.worldbridge.org)



Final Rankings

FINAL A

#	Team	Adj.	IMPs
1	BELGIAN WOMEN		87.90
2	PHILOSOPHERS		84.32
3	ISTANBUL		81.19
4	SWEDEN		71.21
5	NORDEN		69.29
6	CALEDONIA		66.84
7	CELTS		64.83
8	GANAINM		62.42

FINAL B

#	Team	Adj.	IMPs
1	RENATE		103.53
2	TERSCH		89.67
3	NORWEGIAN VALKYRIES		81.42
4	TURQUOISE		81.12
5	GERMAN LADIES		69.22
6	DANTE ISTANBUL		62.14
7	SOUTH AFRICA		57.63
8	ICELAND1		43.27

FINAL C

#	Team	Adj.	IMPs
1	VICUNA		114.41
2	JNZN		81.68
3	THE INCREDIBLES		74.66
4	LOVELY ISRAEL		73.10
5	VIKING GIRLS		70.29
6	ICELAND 2		67.99
7	SANS		64.05
8	LEYLA		41.82

FINAL D

#	Team	Adj.	IMPs
1	PHOENIX		86.43
2	BID AND RUN		84.45
3	HWBT		80.28
4	SWISS LADIES		79.49
5	SUNSHINE SISTERS		77.74
6	LATVIA		61.80
7	RAWSON		60.35
8	FINLAND		57.46

FINAL E

#	Team	Adj.	IMPs
1	CRAZIES I		89.95
2	PORTUGAL		88.79
3	TRICK ME NOT		85.20
4	ISRAEL OFIR		77.43
5	LA ZETA DE ZORRO		68.23
6	HAKUNA MATATA		62.27
7	SUPA DUPAS		59.93
8	RUFF DIAMONDS		56.20

FINAL F

#	Team	Adj.	IMPs
1	BOSPHORUS BRIDGE		92.24
2	NESHOT HAHAIL		90.92
3	SMART TARTAN		87.82
4	SLAM		80.51
5	FAROE ISLANDS		77.58
6	SHAMROCKS 2026		76.08
7	AMBER QUEENS		73.89
8	HEARTBREAKERS 2026		67.27
9	ADV LADIES		52.38
10	ONO VALLEY	-0.40	45.91

BAMSA (Bridge: A MindSport for All) is running a survey to find out what young people think about bridge, and they need your input!

They're gathering perspectives from young players of all ages (up to 40), from all countries and skill levels, and the findings will go directly to the people planning youth bridge programmes.

Your answers will help shape how bridge is taught and played in schools, clubs, and online. By taking part, you will be entered into a prize draw for 2 × \$50 Amazon vouchers!

The survey takes only 10–15 minutes to complete and is anonymous:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/stirling/youth-bridge>

Unity makes Strength

BELGIAN WOMEN triumph in Final

by Amy Casanova


The BELGIAN WOMEN (Antonella Couteaux, Nicole Marechal, Marie-Francoise Stas, Dominique Stuyck and Caroline Vandenbossche) are the winners of the 3rd European Online Women's Teams Championship. They finished with a score of 87.90 VPs.

In second place with 84.32 VPs are Israel's PHILOSOPHERS (Adi Asulin, Ronnie Benin-Barr, Hila Levi, Sylvia Pelossof, Dana Tal and Noga Tal). Turkiye's ISTANBUL (Asli Acar, Ebru Ates, Berrak Erkan, Irem Ozbay and Dilek Yavas) finished third with 81.10 VPs.

After starting the day in fourth place, the BELGIAN WOMEN won their first four matches, building a comfortable lead.

In their third-round match against Scotland's CALEDONIA (Sheila Adamson, Elizabeth McGowan, Fiona McQuaker, Abigail Milne, Ying Piper and Sam Punch), a tactical raise of a preempt stole this board:

Board 19. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Piper	Couteaux	Punch	Marechal
Pass	3♥*	Pass	2♦*
All Pass			3♠

South's 2♦ was either a weak two-bid in a major or strong and balanced. North made life difficult for East-West with her 3♥ call, pass-or-correct. Seems like East could hazard a double here, but the auction proceeded as shown. The ♥9 was led to the queen, king and ace. Declarer drew trumps and conceded

down two.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stas	Milne	Vandenbossche	Adamson
3♣	3♠	4♥	2♠
			All Pass

Vandenbossche made an overtrick when Adamson led the ♠A and then cleared trumps. Plus 650 was good for 11 IMPs.

Say you bid a grand slam in clubs with this trump holding (rotated):

♣ Q J 3	♣ A K 10 9 7 6 4	♣ —
	♣ 8 5 2	

If you're good enough to take a first-round finesse, I'd like to have you on my team.


CALEDONIA was in 7♣ down one for 16 IMPs to the BELGIAN WOMEN, who stopped in 6♣. Their margin of victory was 3 IMPs.

They went on to soundly defeat the leaders of the qualifying Swiss, ISTANBUL, by 23 IMPs.

After suffering a small loss to GANAINM, a penultimate-round blitz by NORDEN dropped them down to second place.

They needed a strong last set against SWEDEN (Mayalo Bjoerk Heed, Sara Boo, Leah Erikson, Lena Johansson, Andrea Nilsson and Ylva Pyykko) to recapture the lead.

Board 51. Dealer South. E-W Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erikson</i>	<i>Vandenbossche</i>	<i>Boo</i>	<i>Stas</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

North's 1♦ was 11+ HCP and a four-card or longer suit. West led an attitude ♥3, Stas put up the queen and led a low diamond. East took her king and continued with a heart, but the rest of the tricks went to Stas.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Marechal</i>	<i>Johansson</i>	<i>Couteaux</i>	<i>Pyykko</i>
			1NT*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥*
Dbl	4NT	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

Pyykko's 1NT was 9–13 HCP and could be unbalanced, but with no major-suit singleton. 2♦ was game-forcing Stayman, South denied a four-card major. 3♦ was natural. South signed off but obliged with a control-bid in hearts after North made a slam try. This was doubled by West. Was 4NT a signoff? South thought it was RKCB and answered 5♥. North had nowhere to go but 6♦, down one. Maybe passing the double of 4♥ could have kept them out of slam.

That was good for 11 IMPs to the BELGIAN WOMEN, enough to win the match 18–5 and secure their victory.

The second-place team, Israel's PHILOSOPHERS, outthought the field on this deal against ISTANBUL:

Board 37. Dealer North-.N-S Vul.

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



Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Erkan</i>	<i>Asulin</i>	<i>Acar</i>	<i>Levi</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

Asulin started the bidding with her longest suit and rebid spades after the game-forcing 2♣. When Levi supported, Asulin bid 3NT (Alerted with no explanation so either a serious or non-serious slam try). Levi showed a club control, Asulin a diamond control and Levi signed off. Not showing a heart control was encouraging; Asulin asked for key cards and drove to slam after Levi showed two without the queen.

Acar got off to the lead of the ♥10, giving nothing away and threatening to tap declarer. She ruffed low and played the ♣J to the ace to lead a spade to the 10, East taking the king. Another heart was led to the queen and king, Asulin ruffing. She next cashed the ♦A, both following low, then a spade to the ace to lead another diamond. She won with the king, ruffed a diamond and led a club to her queen to pull the last trump and run her good diamonds. Boldly bid and bravely played.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>N. Tal</i>	<i>Yavas</i>	<i>D. Tal</i>	<i>Ozbay</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Yavas bid more conservatively, as did Ozbay. They stopped in game, making six on the same ♥10 lead, although there was a chance to hold it to five. Declarer ruffed the heart lead, cashed the ♦A and led a spade to the ace and a spade to the jack, queen and king. If East exits with her last trump, she will score her ♦Q.

Still, the slam swing was a well-deserved 13 IMPs for the runners-up.

The transnational (England, Poland, Spain and Sweden) squad VICUNA (Fiona Brown, Maria Eugenia Hernandez, Danuta Kazmucha, Almudena Martorell, Marion Michielsen and Maria Sainz De Vicuna) topped the Group B–F Final with 114.41 VPs. In second place with 103.53 VPs were RENATE (Renate Adelsberger, Heather Dhondy, Jill Pattison, Anne Rosen, Jovanka Smederevac and Hanna Tuus), hailing from Austria, England, France. Third place, with a score of 92.24 VPs, went to Turkiye's BOSPHORUS BRIDGE (Elvan Akgun, Cagla Akyurek, Merih Erguney, Nur Ketenci, Ferda Hilal Vardar and Nursen Zabci).

A woman wearing a black riding helmet and jacket stands next to a brown horse with a white blaze on its face. They are outdoors at what appears to be an equestrian event, with other riders and horses visible in the background.

WHATSAPPING WITH SABINA GRZEJDZIAK

by **Francesca Canali**

We were very curious to know more about Sabina Grzejdziak, member of Masa of Magic, the team who placed second at the 2025 European Online Women's Teams Championships. She couldn't play this time as it is a very busy period for Polish bridge players, with many competing in the Polish Premier League. And for this very reason, we could only reach out to her between sessions and in written form. Here's the result of a nice WhatsApp chat...

Tell us more about you! 🗨️



I am 48 and bridge is only my hobby. Normally I work as a software developer. I started playing bridge in secondary school. I play 99% with my husband. We have 2 adult children, a dog, a cat and a horse. I live 7–8 months in Warsaw, Poland, and 4–5 months a year in Funchal, Madeira (Portugal).

What is your best bridge memory so far?



The European Championship bronze medal in BAM in Poznan last year.



And is there a moment you'd rather forget, or that taught you an especially hard lesson?



Losing the World Championships quarterfinal to Italy in 2022 in Salsomaggiore, when we were very close to a serious medal.

What stands out most when you think back to the 2025 EBL Online Women's Championships?



It was a nice weekend and we won very attractive prizes 😊

Your team also received a voucher as part of that result. How did you decide to use it?



At the European Championships in Poznan, when I played Mixed and Open Teams.

Thanks to that second place at the EBL Online Women's Championships, your team was invited to the 2025 European Champions Cup...



Yes! And I was lucky to escape from the terrible storm in Madeira!

What was it like playing the Women's Champions Cup?



Good playing conditions and a bad result...

Do you regularly play bridge online? Which platforms do you like best both for online play and training?



Yes, BBO and RealBridge from time to time.

What do you see as the main differences between online and face-to-face play, style related? Do you adjust your approach or strategies in face to face vs online bridge?



Concentration is higher when you are playing face to face. Online bridge, in my opinion, is just for pleasure or training purposes.

You've achieved excellent results in the Mixed category playing with your life partner. Many players say that combining bridge and personal life in a partnership can be delicate. What do you think makes it work for you?



It is crazy not to play together! 😊
We have some rules that help us to keep calm and cool during play. And playing bridge is only our hobby, not the most important part of our lives.

What do you think of the existence of the women's category in mind sports?



The more categories, the more chances of winning medals! 😊

Finally, looking toward 2026: what are your goals in bridge?



We will play the Winter European Championships in Prague and the World Championships in Katowice, aiming for a good place! 😊



**OPEN TO PLAYERS
FROM ALL OVER
THE WORLD!**

EUROPEAN WINTER
OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

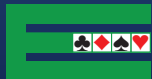
EUROPEAN WINTER
MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP

EUROPEAN WINTER
**SWISS CUP
OPEN BAM
OPEN PAIRS
MIXED PAIRS**



EUROPEAN WINTER TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

— PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC · 10 - 19 FEBRUARY, 2026 —



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

📍 TOP CONGRESS HOTEL PRAGUE



[CHAMPIONSHIPS.EUROBRIDGE.ORG/EWTC2026](https://championships.eurobridge.org/ewtc2026)



[INFO@EUROBRIDGE.ORG](mailto:info@eurobridge.org)

EVENTS

- * EUROPEAN WINTER
OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP
10 - 17 February
- * EUROPEAN WINTER
MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP
15 - 19 February
- * EUROPEAN WINTER
SWISS CUP
13 - 17 February
- * EUROPEAN WINTER
OPEN BAM
15 - 17 February
- * EUROPEAN WINTER
OPEN PAIRS
15 - 17 February
- * EUROPEAN WINTER
MIXED PAIRS
17 - 19 February

Flexible schedule:

Play in as many events as you like!

Players can join provided that they and their NBOs are in good standing with the EBL.



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

🔗 [CHAMPIONSHIPS.EUROBRIDGE.ORG/EWTC2026](https://championships.eurobridge.org/ewtc2026) ✉ [INFO@EUROBRIDGE.ORG](mailto:info@eurobridge.org)

PRIZES

- * EBL TITLES
- EBL MEDALS
- EBL MASTERPOINS

VENUE & HOTEL

- * TOP CONGRESS – PRAGUE

RATES AT THE HOST HOTEL

Per night, per room (breakfast included)

Standard room (small)

👤 € 74 👤👤 € 88 👤👤👤 € 111

Executive room (large)

👤 € 77 👤👤 € 98 👤👤👤 € 129

Superior room (large, 2 bathrooms)

👤 € 84 👤👤 € 108 👤👤👤 € 141

- * MORE HOTEL OPTIONS
AVAILABLE IN THE WEBSITE

BOOKING & REGISTRATION

REGISTER FOR BRIDGE EVENTS and
BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM in the
event's website.

ENTRY FEES PER PLAYER

ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE

Combined entry including **ALL THE EVENTS**.
10 days of play | check drop-in criteria in the website

	NON-LOCAL*	LOCAL*
TITLED PLAYERS	€ 650	€ 450
NON-TITLED PL.	€ 390	€ 270

COMBINED ENTRY INCLUDING OPEN TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP + SWISS CUP + OPEN BAM + OPEN PAIRS

	NON-LOCAL*	LOCAL*
TITLED PLAYERS	€ 560	€ 400
NON-TITLED PL.	€ 340	€ 240

COMBINED ENTRY INCLUDING MIXED TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIP + MIXED PAIRS

	NON-LOCAL*	LOCAL*
TITLED PLAYERS	€ 300	€ 210
NON-TITLED PL.	€ 180	€ 130

SWISS CUP ONLY

	NON-LOCAL*	LOCAL*
TITLED PLAYERS	€ 300	€ 210
NON-TITLED PL.	€ 180	€ 130

OPEN BAM OR OPEN PAIRS OR MIXED PAIRS

	NON-LOCAL*	LOCAL*
TITLED PLAYERS	€ 180	€ 130
NON-TITLED PL.	€ 110	€ 80

* Local players are players from **Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Poland, Slovakia**.