



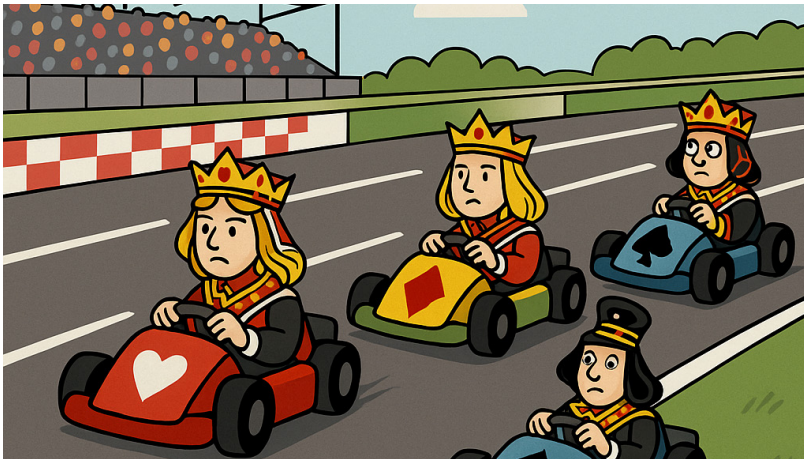
Women's Bridge Committee
Fair Play for Women

2ND EUROPEAN ONLINE WOMEN'S TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Online on RealBridge • 25 - 27 April, 2025

Issue N. 2. 2025.04.27

Editor: Amy Casanova ♠ Layout Editor: Francesca Canali



Pole Position

Throughout the two days of qualifying Swiss matches, most of the top eight teams maintained their rankings, moving up or down just a few spots before settling to their resting places, except for CALEDONIA, who shot up from 16th place after four rounds to their current second place. VALKYRIE – a heavy favorite – just missed Group A by less than half a VP, largely due to being on the wrong side of a shut-out by the leading VIKING GIRLS.

Qualifiers

The Top 8 teams to advance from the two days of qualifying Swiss matches are:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | VIKING GIRLS | 132.53 |
| 2 | CALEDONIA | 131.70 |
| 3 | GLAM SLAM QUEENS | 127.79 |
| 4 | HWBT | 122.70 |
| 5 | MASA OF MAGIC | 121.01 |
| 6 | ICEQUEENS | 119.97 |
| 7 | YORKSHIREPUDDINGS | 117.49 |
| 8 | BEAUTIFUL ISRAEL | 116.99 |

The full ranking from the qualifying Swiss matches is published on page 2.

GROUP A

| | Carryover |
|-------------------|-----------|
| VIKING GIRLS | 7 |
| CALEDONIA | 6 |
| GLAM SLAM QUEENS | 5 |
| HWBT | 4 |
| MASA OF MAGIC | 3 |
| ICEQUEENS | 2 |
| YORKSHIREPUDDINGS | 1 |
| BEAUTIFUL ISRAEL | 0 |

GROUP B

| | Carryover |
|---------------------|-----------|
| VALKYRIE | 7 |
| MATAN | 6 |
| ROIKO | 5 |
| OVER TROUBLED WATER | 4 |
| ESPANOLAS | 3 |
| PIRAIJA | 2 |
| FREDDO | 1 |
| LA ZETA DE ZORRO | 0 |

GROUP C

| | Carryover |
|--------------------|-----------|
| CYMRU | 7 |
| CASTELLS | 6 |
| ROMANIAN GIRLS | 5 |
| CRO | 4 |
| ICELADIES | 3 |
| SERBIA 1 | 2 |
| HEARTBREAKERS 2025 | 1 |
| SUNSHINE SISTERS | 0 |

GROUP D

| | Carryover |
|--------------------|-----------|
| GREEK LADIES | 7 |
| CYPRUS AND FRIENDS | 6 |
| SIX HEARTS | 5 |
| LUSITANIA | 4 |
| SWISS LADIES | 3 |
| FINLAND KIPA | 2 |
| WILDCARDS | 1 |
| THE CLUBBERS | 0 |

GROUP E

| | Carryover |
|----------------|-----------|
| SERBIA 2 | 8 |
| SMART TARTAN | 7 |
| SHAMROCKS 2025 | 6 |
| ENTREMARES | 5 |
| FRIENDS | 4 |
| TWEEDLE DEE | 3 |
| STAND BYE | 2 |
| FINLAND CAROLA | 1 |
| ONO VALLEY | 0 |

STARTING TIMES

Round Robin Final

Sunday 27 April 2025, 10:00 CEST

Sunday 27 April 2025, 15:15 CEST



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QUALIFYING SWISS

Full Ranking

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|--------|----|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | VIKING GIRLS | 132.53 | 22 | ICELADIES | 100.30 |
| 2 | CALEDONIA | 131.70 | 23 | SERBIA 1 | 99.24 |
| 3 | GLAM SLAM QUEENS | 127.79 | 24 | HEARTBREAKERS 2025 | 99.07 |
| 4 | HWBT | 122.70 | 25 | SUNSHINE SISTERS | 98.37 |
| 5 | MASA OF MAGIC | 121.01 | 26 | GREEK LADIES | 97.28 |
| 6 | ICEQUEENS | 119.97 | 27 | CYPRUS AND FRIENDS | 94.72 |
| 7 | YORKSHIREPUDDINGS | 117.49 | 28 | SIX HEARTS | 93.84 |
| 8 | BEAUTIFUL ISRAEL | 116.99 | 29 | LUSITANIA | 91.13 |
| 9 | VALKYRIE | 116.50 | 30 | SWISS LADIES | 90.39 |
| 10 | MATAN | 115.07 | 31 | FINLAND KIPA | 90.19 |
| 11 | ROIKO | 114.02 | 32 | WILDCARDS | 89.05 |
| 12 | OVER TROUBLED WATER | 111.80 | 33 | THE CLUBBERS | 88.58 |
| 13 | ESPANOLAS | 109.33 | 34 | SERBIA 2 | 85.99 |
| 14 | PIRAIJA | 107.18 | 35 | SMART TARTAN | 84.02 |
| 15 | FREDDO | 107.11 | 36 | SHAMROCKS 2025 | 82.43 |
| 16 | LA ZETA DE ZORRO | 106.17 | 37 | ENTREMARES | 81.30 |
| 17 | LEVANTINE LADIES | 102.76 | 38 | FRIENDS | 80.00 |
| 18 | CYMRU | 101.98 | 39 | TWEEDLE DEE | 77.23 |
| 19 | CASTELLS | 101.65 | 40 | STAND BYE | 75.10 |
| 20 | ROMANIAN GIRLS | 101.01 | 41 | FINLAND CAROLA | 72.99 |
| 21 | CRO | 100.98 | 42 | ONO VALLEY | 41.04 |


BRIDGE MIX

Amy Casanova

With the same boards being played over 40 times in the qualifying Swiss, one must come to expect a variety of results, especially in an international event with many different systems in play. An early board proved this theory.


Norway's VIKING GIRLS, who topped the qualifying Swiss, defended this board nicely against Poland's MASA OF MAGIC.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Norths across the field opened the spectrum of 1♠, 2♣ and 2♦. Contracts ranged from two pairs in 7♥ making to 6♠ down one, with a few 7♣ – doubled, of course – saves sprinkled in. Many North-Souths played in diamonds when South naturally bid the six-card suit in competition over some number of clubs, making the 10-card heart fit difficult to locate.

Board 34. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <i>Sivertsvik</i> | <i>Grzejdziaik</i> | <i>Chediak</i> | <i>Kreglewska</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 2♦(1) |
| Pass | 2♠(2) | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl | All Pass | | |

- (1) Weak two-bid in major
- (2) Pass or correct




Vicky Chediak

South's weak two-bid in a major was declared by North when Grzejdziaak "raised" hearts by bidding 2♠ – pass or correct. Sivertsvik balanced with a double, converted to penalty by Chediak, who started with the ♣6 to the queen, king and ace. The ♥10 was run to West's ace. She cashed the ♣J and exited with the ♥4 to North's king. Declarer continued with the ♥J, ruffed by East with the ♠10 and overruffed with dummy's ♠Q. The ♦10 was played to East's jack; she cashed the ♣10 and the ♦A and played another diamond, ruffed in dummy perforce. Because of the spade spots, declarer had to lose three more tricks for down three and 800 to VIKING GIRLS. At the other table, Gunn Helness opened 2♠ and played it there, down one.

Close behind in the standings are CALEDONIA who started out the second day with a big win over LEVANTINE LADIES and another one against the leaders, thanks to two slam swings. The first one hinged on the opening lead.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| McQuaker | Mirkovic | McGowan | Helness |
| — | — | 3♥ | Pass |
| 6♥ | All Pass | | |

Helness led the ♣A and 6♥ rolled home when McGowan ruffed, cashed the ♥A and ♠A and exited with a ♠ off dummy. North played the ♠Q, ruffed by declarer, who then had to only lose the trump king.

At the other table, the auction was more informative:


| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Brogeland | Middleton | Langeland | Punch |
| — | — | 2♥ | Pass |
| 2NT(1) | Pass | 3♦(2) | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 5♦(3) | Pass | 6♣(4) | Pass |
| 6♥ | All Pass | | |

- 1) Asks for shortness
- 2) Singleton ♦
- 3) Queen ask
- 4) ♥Q and ♣K

Punch led her singleton diamond. Langeland tried to get to her hand by ruffing a diamond with the ♥7, but Punch was able to overruff. She made a tricky exit with the ♣8 and declarer ruffed, going down two when the ♥K was offside and with another club to lose.

The very next board produced the second slam swing.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Brogeland | Middleton | Langeland | Punch |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♣ | 4♥ | 4♠ |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5♠ |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

Brogeland led a fifth-best diamond to the 5, jack and king. Punch unblocked the ♣A and played the ♦4 to the ace. She then played the ♣K, discarding a diamond. Once that hurdle was crossed, the ♠9 went to the jack, king and ducked by West. Punch persisted with the ♠2 to the 5 and dummy's 8, East playing the ♥2. Punch ruffed a diamond back to her hand, and played spades until West took her ace. She exited with a diamond, but declarer had one spade left with which to ruff and a heart to dummy's now-bare ace and good ♣Q J 10 meant 12 tricks.

At the other table, the auction was the same except North did not make a move after South's 4♠ call.



Sam Punch

VISION AND PHILOSOPHY: LYDIA MANOUSI ON BRIDGE AND LIFE

Amy Casanova

Lydia Manousi of Greece is the President of the Hellenic Bridge Federation. She is a lawyer, having graduated from the Law University of Athens, and an Accredited Mediator by the Ministry of Justice. She has a master's degree in Corruption, Economic and Organized Crime.

Lydia started bridge lessons in 2017 at a bridge club in the suburbs of Athens. "My teacher was one of the club directors who eventually became national director," she said. "I believe that every bridge student's first teacher will always remain in their mind as a mentor. He also was one of the reasons that made me love bridge so much. Since then, I have been playing almost every day and thus am one of the most frequent players in Greece."

Bridge for Lydia is "primarily a way of entertainment, combining the joy of playing and exercising the brain. By playing bridge, I find myself far away from everyday life problems." For Lydia, bridge is a "way to spend some pleasant and creative hours, where someone can meet other interesting people and create new friendships."

Guided by this love for bridge, Lydia dedicated herself to a continuous effort for improving Greek Bridge. "I first became General Secretary of the Greek Bridge Federation in 2021 and currently serve as the President of the Federation," she said. "Together with the other members of the Board, we achieved several important things during these last five years, including the official recognition of bridge in Greece as an intellectual sport in 2022, by Law (4908), and all the benefits that came out of that."

Today the Greek Bridge Federation has 65 member clubs, 23 of which are located in Athens, and more than 5,000 active athletes. Lydia described how bridge is administered in her country and her goals and vision for the game:



Tournaments are organized daily in the clubs. Some of these have the character of a simultaneous competition, meaning that the same boards are played by athletes from all over Greece and athletes who participate in clubs are getting masterpoints.

The Greek Federation organizes a multitude of championships every year while it is represented, by its national teams, in the largest competitions abroad.

However, in recent years bridge has penetrated to the younger generation, as it combines the joy of the game, social contacts and mental exercise. In fact, recently, more and more young people are starting to learn and play bridge, as it is considered a pleasant and creative way to spend their free time. Young people constitute a significant percentage of our athletes today.

The Greek Federation aims to spread the sport on four basic levels:

- A. More people learning bridge
- B. Improve the organization of competitions in our country
- C. Encouraging Greece to participate and be distinguished in the international tournaments
- D. The creation of talented young bridge-playing teams

Moreover, Greece is a pioneer in teaching bridge to people with visual impairments and the Greek Ministry of Education is supporting this initiative. Finally, in recent years, permission was given to us

by the Ministry of Education for bridge's introduction in schools and thus we believe that we will soon gain fanatical friends at young ages.

My mission and vision are to spread the sport as much as possible. I want more and more people to learn bridge and to discover young talents. I want to train athletes to improve their skills and organize excellent competitions and championships worthy of representation abroad.

I want to encourage women bridge players who face additional challenges in the bridge world. Sexism exists even at bridge. At one time, there was a majority of men who thought themselves superior to females at bridge, but over the years I believe this view has changed. Being a better bridge player does not by any means make you a better person. Women have many talents – and if they contribute equally to life, to the family, to professional activities – the new generations of men will respect and treat them in an equal manner.

Turning back time, I believe I wouldn't change a thing. I would follow the same path, always having my favorite motto: "*Carpe Diem*" (Seize the day). Although this phrase has a different meaning to each one of us, for me it means: *pay attention to your days, to every hour you spend, to the time you have been given and be grateful for every day you live.*



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