

### Round 3

In Round 3 of the tournament Norway met Finland. Both teams started the competition well with a small win, but had just lost heavily in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. So both teams could use the points well.

In the open room Sofie Sjøhdal and Agnethe Kjensli (Norway) played against Oskari Koivu – Hermanni Huhtamäki. In the closed room Katarina Ekren and Thea Hauge faced Aapo Nieminen – Maria Myllari.

<b>D</b>	<b>N</b> Sjøhdal	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORT</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUT</b>
21	♠ K92 ♥ KJ1065 ♦ 107 ♣ Q86	1♠ P 2♦ P 4♠ P	P P P	1♥ P 2♠ P P	P P P
<b>W</b> Huhtamäki	<b>S</b> Kjensli				
♠ AQ854 ♥ Q9 ♦ J65 ♣ A94	♠ 76 ♥ 3 ♦ Q9432 ♣ KJ1075				
4♠ West NS: 0 EW: 0					
		<b>E</b> Koivu			
		♠ J103 ♥ A8742 ♦ AK8 ♣ 32			

West	North	East	South
Hauge	Nieminen	Ekren	Myllari
-	Pass	1♥	2NT *
3♠	Pass	4♠	Ap.

Myllari overcalled 2NT for the minors. At this vulnerability that could cause problems, but catching a useful North hand would probably have kept South out of real trouble. Hauge just bid her spades without looking for a penalty against one of the minors and Ekren had an easy raise to four. Nieminen led a club and Myllari tried the 10 to figure out who had the Queen. Hauge took her Ace and returned a club. Nieminen went up with the Queen, but Myllari overtook with the King to lead her heart. Declarer

won and returned a heart, but the defense already had four tricks, one in each suit. South won her Queen of diamonds in the last trick.

West	North	East	South
<i>Huhtamäki</i>	<i>Sjohdal</i>	<i>Koivu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
-	Pass	1 ♥	pass
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	ap.		

2 ♦ was a game-forcing asking bid and East showed his 3-card spade support. Sjohdal also led a club. Kjensli was allowed to hold the King, so she switched to her heart. Declarer tried the Queen, but it was covered and won with the Ace. Declarer returned a small heart and South ruffed. The defense got a spade and a diamond, so this was also 1 down and a push.

Hand layout showing cards for West (Huhtamäki), North (Sjohdal), East (Koivu), and South (Kjensli). The board is green. West has 22 D. North has 42 spades, J10 hearts, AKQ976 diamonds, and K87 clubs. East has 4 spades, P hearts, P diamonds, and P clubs. South has 5 spades, KQ974 hearts, J3 diamonds, and A9542 clubs. A small box indicates 4♠ East, NS: 0, EW: 0.

West	North	East	South
<i>Hauge</i>	<i>Nieminen</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Myllari</i>
-	-	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	...pass	Pass	DBL
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
ap.			

Mylläri decided not to overcall this time, but when the tray returned with 3 ♠ she decided to chance a double. Nieminen showed his diamonds and Mylläri corrected to 4 ♥, probably showing hearts and clubs. Nieminen interestingly passed 4 ♥, but it was a good contract.

North had thought for a while over 3 ♠, so West called the director to ask whether South was allowed to bid after that. With screens only the other side of the screen is allowed to call the director if the tray returns slowly, so West was correct to do so. Play continued however while the director judged South's action by polling other players.

Hauge led a top spade. Would she have led another spade declarer has to pitch a club to keep control of the hand. Hauge instead returned the Jack of clubs, so declarer had time to drive out the Ace of hearts and draw trumps after that. 11 tricks, NS +450.

Later during the round the director came back with his ruling, having polled some players (most teams have more than 4 players, so lots of players around to ask what they would do). Even though it might be best to act with the South hand the poll made it clear that Pass was a logical alternative to making a bid or double. So the director ruled that the result was changed to 3 ♠ -1 for East-West, NS +100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Huhtamaki</i>	<i>Sjohdal</i>	<i>Koivu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
-	-	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	ap.		

Huhtamaki made a raise to 4 ♠ even, so no one had anything to add. 4 ♠ was down one more, so NS +200 and 3 IMPs to Norway.

D 28	N Nieminen	WEST	NORT	EAST	SOUT
	♠ Q10965 ♥ KQ103 ♦ 9 ♣ Q83	1♦	P	1NT	P
W Hauge		P	P		
♠ 8743 ♥ AJ42 ♦ KQ85 ♣ 10	E Ekren				
	♠ AJ ♥ 65 ♦ J1076 ♣ 76542				
	S Mylläri				
	♠ K2 ♥ 987 ♦ A432 ♣ AKJ9				
1NT East NS: 0 EW: 0					

West	North	East	South
Hauge	Nieminen	Ekren	Myllari
1 ♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	pass		

Hauge opened very light with her 4-4-4-1 shape and Ekren bid 1NT instead of raising diamonds. Myllari now had a good hand, but no good bid as double would be take-out, showing at least some more Majors than she had. Nieminen also went passive on this hand, passing out 1NT.

The defense started with four rounds of clubs to which North pitched a heart. Myllari switched to the seven of hearts. Nieminen took the ten and returned the King, setting up the seventh trick for the defense. South got her Ace of diamonds and the heart trick, so 1NT was 1 off. NS +50. That seemed like a good result for East-West, having only 16 high card points between them. But in the other room Sjøhdal and Kjensli got to a normal 3NT.

West	North	East	South
Huhtamaki	Sjøhdal	Koivu	Kjensli
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3NT
ap.			

2 ♣ was stayman and 3 ♥ showed a game-forcing hand with five spades and four hearts. Without a fit Kjensli chose 3NT as the final contract. Huhtamaki had heard North bid two of his four card suits, so he tried the third one. He led the five of diamonds. Kjensli took the third diamond and went after spades by playing the King. Koivu won immediately to play the fourth diamond. Huhtamaki won the trick and returned the diamond. The result was 3NT -1 and 4 IMPs to Finland.

D		N Sjøhdal	WEST	NORT	EAST	SOUT
29		♠AKQ ♥AQJ7 ♦AK983 ♣K	2♣	2♠		Dbl
W Huhtamäki			P	P	P	
♠8 ♥106543 ♦Q54 ♣10953		E Koivu				
		♠J109763 ♥K ♦10 ♣AQJ74				
		S Kjensli				
		♠542 ♥982 ♦J762 ♣862				
2♠x East NS: 0 EW: 0						

West	North	East	South
<i>Hauge</i>	<i>Nieminen</i>	<i>Ekren</i>	<i>Myllari</i>
-	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♦	ap.	

Nieminen opened 2 ♣, strong. Ekren, although holding 6-5 in spades and clubs, did not interrupt the strong opener. Myllari bid a waiting 2 ♦ and Nieminen rebid 4 ♦, while he probably could have bid 3 ♦ too. Myllari raised to game without any interest of slam, but Nieminen liked his hand enough to raise one more. Hauge led a small heart and Myllari tried the Queen. Ekren won her King and cashed the Ace of clubs. Declarer then played Ace and King of diamonds, so Huhtamaki got his Queen. NS -200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Huhtamaki</i>	<i>Sjohdal</i>	<i>Koivu</i>	<i>Kjensli</i>
-	2 ♣	2 ♠	DBL
ap.			

Sjohdal also opened a strong 2 ♣, but Koivu entered the bidding with 2 ♠. You might catch a fit sometimes and maybe find a good save. Kjensli doubled, probably to show a hand without any interest in bidding while pass is some positive hand. Sjohdal elected to convert the double to penalty. Kjensli led a heart and Sjohdal won her Ace. She cashed the Ace of diamonds. She now had to continue with hearts everytime she got in, so south would be able to use her trump to force declarer to ruff the fourth round of hearts. The King of diamonds would then be the setting trick. When Sjohdal however played a second top diamond declarer could ruff and play trumps on each occasion, with North forcing again with top hearts. But after the third round of trumps North has no more winner to play and with the King of clubs dropping this meant declarer had the rest and his contract. NS -670, 10 IMPs to Finland.

Norway took 2 IMPs on the final board with an extra undertrick against 2 ♥, so the final score of the match was a low 8 – 15 with Finland being the winners.

Finland moved to the eighth place, while Norway dropped to tenth. The top-6 of each group will qualify for Intermediate final-A, while the Bottom-6 will go to Intermediate final-B.

From the Intermediate-A the top-7 will advance to the quarter finals, where the best team from the B-group will join them.

♣♦♥♠