

Midsummer Bridge 2015 Tournament report

by Mauri Saastamoinen

(You can find this article and all results of the tournament at our web site www.bridgefinland.com.)



All junior teams and their captains gathered together at playing area.

Midsummer Bridge Tournament was held for the fourth consecutive year in Finland. This year we had moved the venue from Tuusula to Salo, a city located between Helsinki and Turku, approximately 100 kilometers from Helsinki.

Salo High School as playing area and Vuohensaari Camping area as a place for accommodation enjoyed a good combination of nice Finnish weather, effective services – and friendly atmosphere at the same time. Junior players were again in the main role in this event.



Midsummer 2015 Invitational Junior Teams Competition

This year we had junior teams from Norway, Estonia, Latvia, England, Scotland, Czech Republic and Hungary. There were two teams from Estonia and two teams from Finland so there were ten teams taking part to our Midsummer Bridge Invitational Junior Teams Competition held on Friday 5th of June.

Junior Teams Competition was tight to the second last round. First Estonia U25 took the lead, then it was taken by England U25 team and then by Hungary U25 team. After round 6 Estonia U25 took the lead after it had won Hungary U25 by imps 26–7 (16,89–3,11). But at round 8 young Finnish U20 team, which had lost all its matches so far, smashed Estonia U25 by imps 26–1 (18,29–1,81), and Hungary U25 sailed to victory.

England U25 was playing sound play round after round, but it did not score enough big victories to win the competition. Czech U25 instead did score big victories at round 8 and 9, but even that wasn't enough to score the bronze medal.



Winners: Hungary U25 team from left to right: Barnabás Szirmay-Kalos, Csaba Konkoly, Dániel Tubak and Máté Vági with gold medals and Challenge Cup.



Silver medalists: Estonia U25 team from left to right: Jonatan Raudsepp, Martin Maasik, Johanna Piibor and Aleksis Zalis.



Bronze medalists: England U25 team from left to right: Rob Myers, Shivam Shah, James Paul and Alex Roberts.

Juniors played 54 boards during a day. There were of course many good plays and bidding sequences during a day, but only one of each category could be selected as worth a prize:

Midsummer Bridge 2015 Invitational Junior Teams Competition: Best bid hand: Dániel Tubak and Máté Vagi, Hungary U25 team:

Dániel Tubak and Máté Vagi bid 7D against Karoliina Kanninen and Aapo Nieminen at board number 27, as shown below:

27	---	Bidding went as follows:			
South	K2	South	West	North	East
none	KQJ32	1D	Pass	2C	3S
	A107642	X	Pass	4S	Pass
107	AKQJ543	5H	Pass	5S	Pass
1098753	J6	5NT	Pass	6C	Pass
10	65	7D	Pass	Pass	Pass
QJ85	93				
	9862				
	AQ4				
	A9874				
	K				

Dániel Tubak opened natural 1D, that promised at least three diamonds. Máté's 2D was inverted raise in diamonds. After Aapo jumped to 3S, opener's double said that he would like to play 3S doubled if responder has some length in spades. They were not sure about their agreement for 4S but it was intended as Roman Keycard Blackwood Exclusion: ace asking bid without spades. Indeed, opener showed 2 aces and trump Queen, even when he did not have one! (He had promised only three diamonds by his opening, it was ok to show trump Queen because responder would not had bid 2D without five.) 5S was asking something more from opener and 5NT denied King of hearts. When Máté insisted still with 6C, asking about King of clubs, it was easy for Dániel to bid seven. Of course it is possible to make opener's task harder by bidding more spades than only three, and there is a cheap save available, but anyway, this bidding sequence shows both talent and imagination at a same time. No other pair did bid that Grand Slam. That was very well done!



Winners of best bid hand prize: Dániel Tubak and Máté Vagi, Hungary U25 team.

Midsummer Bridge 2015 Invitational Junior Teams Competition: Best played hand: Jun Nakamaru-Pinder, Scotland U25 and Rob Myers, England U25

Jun Nakamaru-Pinder from Scotland played next hand against Finnish younger team and Rob Myers from England played the same hand against Czech U25 team.

The board is shown below:

9 Q10
North A7432
E-W A8
 AJ64

J2 K9754
9 KQ106
97542 QJ6
109875 2

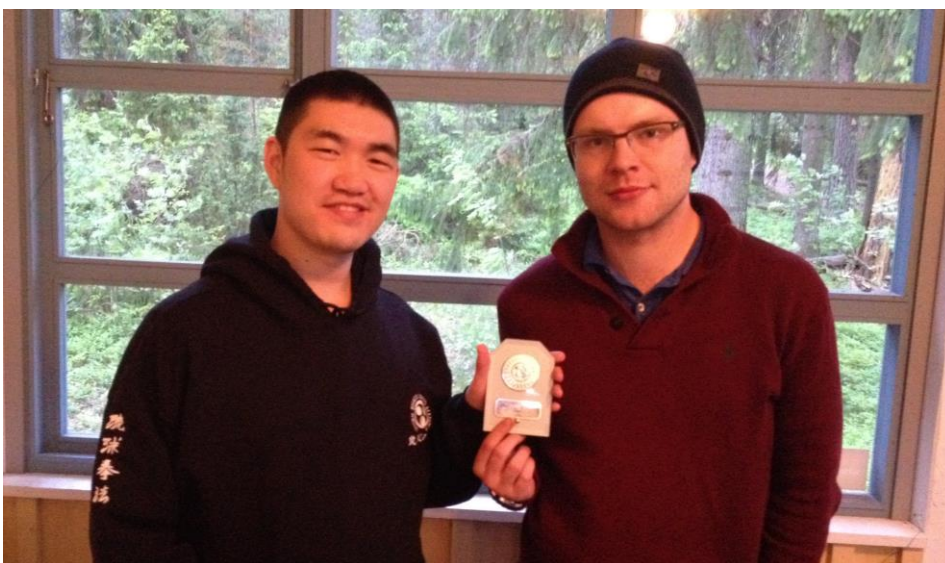
A863
J85
K103
KQ3

Scottish bidding went as follows:

North	East	South	West
1H	1S	2S	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

After Jun opened 1H (showing five cards), Aapo Nieminen bid 1S and Jun's partner Stewart Pinkerton bid 2S, which showed inv+ hand with 3 cards support, Jun took a driver's seat and bid 3NT. After spade lead to a Jack and Queen Jun played small heart, small, Jack, small. A heart was ducked, and that was the very last trick his opponents could take. Spade King to an Ace and four rounds of clubs created a progressive squeeze against poor East. After a diamond discard there was another squeeze in Majors waiting. Well done!

Rob Myers showed identical declarer play against Czech U25 team after short but effective bidding sequence: 1NT-3NT. This time it was Lukas Teichmann's turn to suffer that hand at East's seat. Well done!



Winner of best played hand.: Jun Nakamaru-Pinder, Scotland U25 team and Rob Myers, England U25 team.

Other competitions at Midsummer Tournament

The Main Teams Competition on Saturday was a tight competition with 31 teams participating Salo Open Teams competition and 14 teams participating Salo Open Under 50 Master points category.

Open competition winner was team Eikat (Pekka Uskali, Kaj Sundsten, Olli A. Manni and Olavi Kivipensas), team Trophy (Arttu Karhulahti, Vesa Fagerlund, Markku Pekkinen and Lasse Utter) became runner up after it lost last match against the winning team. Norway U25 became third (Espen Flått, Anders Holmen Gundersen, Marcus A. Scheie and Joakim Saether).

Team Haastajat (Mirja Aro, Tapani Isotalo, Väinö Vuorio and Paavo Isotalo) were the winners at Under 50 Master points category.

The IMP's across the field competition on Friday was won by Maija Romanovska and Janis Ilzins.

There was one more Challenge Cup donated for Main Pairs Competition. This time the winners came from Finland.



Winners of Main Pairs Competition: Vesa Fagerlund and Arttu Karhulahti.

This tournament was a success in more than one way: we had a great venue, good weather, nice visitors, and, most importantly, this tournament was a good advertisement for junior bridge.

I hope to see you all coming to Finland next year!