

## INTERVIEW

### The Rimstedt brothers - Mikael & Ola

1. Your family is probably the top bridge family in the world. How does it feel? Who is the best?

It's a special feeling. No matter where you are with your family there will always be conversations about bridge. We are all playing on a professional level and therefore we can always keep our discussions about bridge on the highest level.

**Mikael:** "Obviously this question has been asked by many people many times. I usually try to refuse answer such questions when I don't think it's clear. About three-four years ago most people would probably say Cecilia to be the best player but after last few years my opinion has changed".

**Ola:** "It's an amazing feeling. Travel all around the world and competing on the highest level is one thing, but be able to do it with your family is beyond amazing. Who is the best? I will say that we are all good at different things. If there is anything that stands out between any of us, that is up for the people around us to decide."

2. For how long have you been playing? When did you start to play bridge, how it all started?

Bridge is a game that has been around our family for many generations. Sandra and Cecilia (sisters) taught us bridge when we were about five years old, but from the day we went to our first international tournament in 2008 I think that's when our career started to get more serious. So about nine years of serious bridge.

3. What do you expect from your bridge partner, what qualities he/she must have? What you particularly dislike in a partnership or bridge attitude?

**Mikael:** I expect my partner to be able to practise often and always have the goal to become a better bridgeplayer. Then my partner must be able take criticism and also be able to have a discussion when an error has occurred during a session. I dislike partners who can't admit their mistakes and trying to convince me he's right about something without having a discussion about it.

**Ola:** "Everybody is different and want different things from your partner. I admittedly am quite sensitive to criticism, but at the same time I love listening to others opinion. I don't think there is a universal quality that fits onto every individual. The most important qualities that partnerships must have - be able listen, discuss and don't think that you are much better than your partner."

4. How was Bermuda Bowl?

Bermuda Bowl was a huge experience for our career. Being only 22 years old, we think we've reached very far only by being qualified to play for Sweden who also were one of the top-ranked teams by many.

5. Do you feel that top bridge has changed after cheaters had been discovered and banned?

**Mikael:** Absolutely. Before it was always the same teams who reached the semi-finals and final-stage and always the same pairs who had the best individual results in their teams. Nowadays, as we could see in the Bermuda Bowl, there are teams who did very well and probably never expected to do so from the beginning.

**Ola:** "Without a doubt. We tend to hear nowadays that we are lucky to join the top at this stage. It's a new era for the game, basically any team in any major tournament can win today. Me and many others are forever grateful for what Boye Brogeland accomplished with his work of cleaning up this marvelous game we love."

6. What do you do when you are not busy with bridge?

**Mikael:** I am playing a game called Padeltennis about 3-4 times a week. It is fairly new in Sweden but very popular in Spain and South America. Also Italy and France has a few courts here and there. During the summer I like spending as much time as I can on the golfcourt. I'm quite a solid 6-hcp player in golf if anyone would like a challenge there as well!

**Ola:** "At home I often play a game called Padeltennis, a combination of tennis and squash. Apart from that, I love to cook and watch different kind of TV series and reality shows."

7. Once when you grow up, do you see yourself as professional bridge player, or there is something else you would like to do for living? How will your future look like?

**Mikael:** I never expected I would make a living by playing bridge but time changed when I was doing better and better. I've always had a dream I someday would work full time with something I really enjoy and have bridge as a bonus on the side. We will see how the future looks like but right now I'm very focused on getting best in bridge.

**Ola:** "I did a lot of different kinds of sports when I was younger. I played golf, tabletennis, soccer for many years. Obviously bridge has been a part of my life throughout my entire childhood, and I honestly remember the days in primary school where I said to myself "I want to be a professional bridgeplayer when I grow up". Here I am today and I have no regrets."

8. We must ask you, girls insisted, your private life... anyone special there?

**Mikael:** Hehe... I was afraid this question would appear sooner or later. Let's say I was going into the Bermuda Bowl as the single Mikael who always loved being single. But right now I'm meeting someone who also might come to Pula.

**Ola:** Not right now.

9. You are attending Pula bridge festival for the first time. What brings you here?

**Mikael:** I have the three recent years chose to go to the greek island bridge festival because I have always been a huge fan of Rhodes. But everyone need some variation and everyone has never said one negative thing about Pula. I've only heard great reviews so there was no reason I was gonna miss it this year again. We are all looking forward to this festival!

**Ola:** "I've been playing bridge entire summer and weeks before that. I need a vacation to rest, and vacation for me is great friends, summer weather and a bit of bridge to finish it all up. I like to travel and try new things. I've been to greek bridgefestival the past years and many Swedes are going to Pula every year which is usually going on at the same time. Only good things to say about Pula, I find no reason why I wouldn't give it a go."

