



## Here is the champions report from the 6th World Tantrix Open!

We left Sweden on Wednesday and flew out to Geneva. After only 7 minutes train journey from the airport we were at the hotel almost immediately. The evening was warm and lovely and we had dinner outside, very close to the Geneva lake. We overheard a football match which Juventus won, so they are now in the Champions League-final. Celebrations were going on all night!

Thursday was Josefins Birthday so we sang for her in the breakfast room at the hotel, and she opened some presents. After that we had a walkabout around Geneva and ticked off 10 out of "Top 20 places to visit": a cathedral, a medieval square, the city hall, Jardin Anglais, the flowered clock etc. All very nice but the water fountain, jet d'eau, was by far the coolest and we went out on the pier and got showered as the wind turned!



<---- The Birthday Girl



After we dried we went back to the airport to hire a car on the French side, which we walked over to. We drove back into Switzerland and into France again, heading towards Italy. The scenery outside was amazing and the girls took loads of photos. We stopped at a glacier to have a closer look, drove through plenty of tunnels and had a stop for a pick nick lunch in a small park in Scionzier, France, with all possible tasteful food bought from a supermarket.

We arrived to Aosta in the evening and had a quick game of Tantrix on the balcony before dinner out at a noisy Italian restaurant. Josefin had spaghetti, exactly what she wanted, and she wasn't asked to leave the restaurant when she cut it which Lewis had warned her for. In the evening there were two tired girls, one tired driver but I started to feel relaxed 😊



Friday morning, the rain poured down! A beautiful waterfall I wanted to visit was sort of all around us so no need to go and look for that. Italian/American (really strong) coffee for breakfast certainly woke the driver up again! We had a quick, windy stop at the Aosta river and then we drove to Turin. The co-driver (=me) had found a perfect stop that would make everyone in the car happy; Area12 Centro Commerciale, a shopping center located at the Juventus stadium. It couldnt be more perfect! We spent some time (and Euros) there and then drove off to France. Just after we crossed the border it was snowing heavily and the temperature was 2 degrees! We slid downhill carefully and reached Crolles - the heart of the French alps - in the early evening.



It was soooo nice to meet all “old” Tantrix friends again and it sure didn’t feel like almost a year since last time, the WO in Germany. There were also new players to greet with "Salut" and "Hola"! Lorene welcomed us at the venue, where the BBQ and get together had been re-directed to. Francois had been BBQ-ing at home, indoors... is that a typical French thing? Who knows! We enjoyed various sausages, potatoes, salad, bread, cheese & nice drinks. Yum! ☺ Then of course games followed. A very nice build-up for the tournament.

On Saturday morning games started after a French croissants and pain au chocolat-breakfast. *Game Pack in hand, we kick off in the early morning. Wishing Good Luck with an absent minded smile. How will this go? I'm a little competitive, a feeling deep inside I can't deny...* There were 9 games to play and my first game was against Britta. It was a nice game, not only because I won it. *Mamma Mia, here we go again!* Second game was against Ben and I won by 8 but even better; no one of us went over time as we use to do.



After playing against blue for the first two games I “made a Lennart” in the 3rd game (sorry Pp, but it’s a well known term by now); I played against wrong colour! It was not until rather late in the game I realized that Jean-Marc was playing red instead of blue and the outcome could have been disastrous for me. I lost by 5 and was grateful for that. Phew.

After that I met Mikellos who tried to confuse me by playing red AND wearing a blue shirt but No, no, I didn’t fall for that trick. I was paying much better attention now and I won the game.

Lunch was a 3 course delightful experience with a Fideoa as main course, beautifully cooked by le Chef. It was very relaxing in the sun outside where we were surrounded by the breathtaking alps that you almost had forgotten about during the games. All very nice and comfy...

... but a bit of stress built up; Luigi vs Nica. I must say that I've always valued my darling husbands intelligence highly but in this game, I felt so sorry for him. His body language screamed “I have soo won this game!” from quite early into the game and I couldn’t believe why he looped himself on 16?! Anyway, I extended my line to 16 also, the bag ran out of tiles and then he realized that his 8 tile loop didn't actually give him 18 points, as he thought, so it was a draw.

In the game against Rick I thought I would win but very close to the end game he managed to create a space to waste a crucial tile in, and somehow he managed to pick **that tile** up from the bag, with only 4 tiles left! At my go, I blocked myself filling a forced space so a loss it was. Grr... I mean Grats ☺

I like to believe I have an advantage over Niklas, maybe it's an age thing that I think I should? Nevertheless, nowadays I seem to lose more games than I win against him. And now, I lost by 5 and that is something that he claims to be reeeally important; the player who won our game **against each other** counts, not who got most TP's after 16 games. Well, I'll give him that if it makes him happy because I also believe that as a parent you can never be happier than your child ☺



<-----  
*Oldest player against  
 youngest. Age difference  
 60 years.*

From one youngster to another: Padam. I won by 6 and I'm really happy for that win. Adam also got 2 time penalties which added on to my TP's. Kösz!

In the game against Lorene I was really focused and concentrated and got a time penalty (my first and only) and managed to win by 2. If you look back, I guess that was an important win but I didn't know that then. Merci Best French Tantrix Lady!

I thought of how happy I was with the first day when we walked to the restaurant with Britta. We chatted about mountain climbing, Petzl, Crolles and Tantrix Swedens participation in The Technical Museums exhibition which Britta, Mike and Dave are helping us with, which we are very grateful for. We had more delicious food at the restaurant, played some games, listened to fine piano playing before we went back to the hotel. Before I fell asleep my head sang *I know the Super Looper Luck is gonna find me....*



Sundays first game was against Rolf. Not much went his way, I'm afraid. His lines were all over the place and I also managed to find a block quite early in the game; 3 bgr's were already gone and I had the last 3 on my hand, and I could find a place to both waste them and block Rolf. Score 17-10. Entschuldigung.

Zormac, the 2nd seeded player, and I can't honestly not remember this game at all. It is possible that I still hummed on piano music when we played and therefore remember nothing from the game. I won by 6, at least the scores says so.

I struggled a bit against Pierre, was blocked for quite some time but was lucky to find a threat at the end of the game. I managed to play so many tiles so I could pick up the last yellow over green that I needed to close my loop, so I won by 2.



Pellepen and I drew in our game and I suppose that was a nice and neutral result between former business colleagues. I was going for a loop and thought *gimme, gimme, gimme the tile that I long for, I know the tile is in there but it's hiding for me*, but it didn't come out.

We were served a delicious lunch again and enjoyed it outside in the sun. The cook really worked hard serving us all that food. The group photo was taken and prizes handed out for the French map quiz.



After our normal nice&polite "Lycka till-Bonne chance"-procedure I don't recall more from the game against Vincent than that I held my breath for the last 46 seconds wondering what on earth he was doing not playing his last tile on his line when I was blocked in both ends... *Slipping through my fingers all the time, I try to pick the tile that's needed, but not succeeded, slipping through my fingers - like your time*. Vincent went over time but still won the game. Bien joué!

Eveline was next opponent and we tried out a new rule: the playing colours must match but for the rest it's not so important. Naah...I wouldn't recommend it, it's rather complicated. Half way into the game we discovered that a blue line on one tile was followed by a green line on another. A quick chat with Vincent gave that we should just carry on, so we did. It was a bit confusing though having to look at those tiles during the game when you were counting other combinations. I won the game by 8 and Eveline went over time, which gave me a total of 18,8 in that game.

Last game was against Angelina and I was in total control of bbg corners: 5 were gone very early in the game and she needed the 6th one, so I made a look alike. But she drew it and carried on building her line. Anyway, I managed to extend my line as well and win since I wasted the last remaining tiles for continuing her other end, which then blocked her.

So after 16 games played *I was declared the winner*. I couldn't believe it! It was absolutely fantastic and unreal! At that moment my head was spinning... *"Where shall I go? What shall I do?"* With very small margins I had won the tournament. With my 10 wins (only) I'm NOW aware of that it is the lowest winning score in a WO but what to say...



☺ I was SO happy!



I am also very glad that Lorene finished 3rd and played so well during the whole tournament while she also kept an eye on everything else = multitasking skills! And Niklas who finished 2nd; well done my son, I am very proud of you! I'm pleased my daughter Helena joined us although she didn't play (merci Philippe for providing her with Internet so she could study.) My other daughter Josefin took part in her 4th Open and I am indeed proud of her effort. She was seeded 31st but finished 27th so she is surely climbing up. Sorry Lewis that you didn't finish to match your seeding AND your Imbrahimovic T-shirt. But you will always be a 10 to me! ☺ x

Now it's only 6 players who has taken part in all 6 WO's: Mikem, Niklas, Benopi, Pellepen, Leslie and Kcina.

Sunday evening was spent 'Chez Paculls' with more nice food, games for most people and cooking/washing up/nice chat in the kitchen for others and yessss we all sang some ABBA. A special Thank you for your musical support, AgnEsther! ☺

All of us signed a card to Michel/Grandpere and I hope he is recovering now. We are all looking forward to see both him and Anick in Barcelona next year.



On Monday we went back to Sweden, I was still in a daze with a smile on my face. I guess it was slowly sinking in, the fact that I've won. Lewis posted some pics on Facebook, I made some cocky comments about them and Niklas sighed "Gosh.... it's gonna be a loong year...!" Ok, maybe it was rather boastful of me, posing in front of a wall with Swedish celebrities, I mean Stockholm Hall of Fame... hello?! But how can I NOT be happy and delighted?! ☺ I will for sure carry the World Champion title with great pride until the next tournament and I will treasure the prize dearly. To my defence I'd like to say that it doesn't help at all to be woken in the morning by the cheerful words "Good morning, Champ!" It's not helping at all but it's awwwwwsome! ☺ (Tack min älskade)



MERCI BEAUCOUP to Laurence, Francois, Vincent and to everyone who was involved in organizing the 6th WO-tournament. I know by experience that a weekend like this just don't suddenly happen, there is a lot of time and effort behind it! Thank you to all who contributed to make this into an exceptionally nice weekend with cookies, games, new happy memories, photos, laughters, nice prizes and so much more. Danke, dzięki, bedankt, gracias, köszí, merci to ALL players for being there: I am honestly very grateful to be part of this little world, as the Tantrix community is. And of course, all this couldn't have happened if the game Tantrix wouldn't have been invented...

*so I say thank you for the Tantrix,  
the game we're playing.  
Thanks for all the joy it's bringing.  
Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty,  
what would life be,  
without the game in our lives, what are we?  
So I say thank you Mike for Tantrix, for bringing it to me!*

*I had a dream.... and it came true ☺*

Nica  
Trosa, Sweden  
May 31st, 2015

